

INVERSION AND QUASIGROUP IDENTITIES IN DIVISION ALGEBRAS

ERIK DARPÖ AND JOSÉ MARIA PÉREZ IZQUIERDO

ABSTRACT. The present article is concerned with division algebras that are structurally close to alternative algebras, in the sense that they satisfy some identity or other algebraic property that holds for all alternative division algebras.

Motivated by Belousov's ideas on quasigroups, we explore a new approach to the classification of division algebras. By a detailed study of the representations of the Lie group of autotopies of real division algebras we show that, if the group of autotopies has a sufficiently rich structure then the algebra is isotopic to an alternative division algebra. On the other hand, it is straightforward to check that required conditions hold for large classes of real division algebras, including many defined by identities expressible in a quasigroup.

Some of the algebras that appear in our results are characterized by the existence of a well-behaved inversion map. We give an irredundant classification of these algebras in dimension 4, and partial results in the 8-dimensional case.

1. INTRODUCTION

All algebras discussed in this paper are assumed to be finite dimensional.

A not necessarily associative algebra (A, xy) over a field k is a *division algebra* if $A \neq 0$ and the k -linear maps $L_a : A \rightarrow A$, $x \mapsto ax$ and $R_a : A \rightarrow A$, $x \mapsto xa$ are bijective for all non-zero $a \in A$. Another way to express this is to say A is an algebra such that $A \setminus \{0\}$ is a *quasigroup*: a non-empty set with a binary operation such that left and right multiplication with any element are bijections.

An *isotopy* between two k -algebras (A, xy) and $(B, x * y)$ is a triple $(\varphi_1, \varphi_2, \varphi_3)$ of bijective k -linear maps $A \rightarrow B$ such that $\varphi_1(xy) = \varphi_2(x) * \varphi_3(y)$ for all $x, y \in A$. The algebra (A, xy) is an *isotope* of $(B, x * y)$ if there exists an isotopy between (A, xy) and $(B, x * y)$. Isotopes of division algebras are again division algebras.

The most well-known examples of real division algebras are \mathbb{R} , \mathbb{C} , Hamilton's quaternions \mathbb{H} and Graves' and Cayley's octonions \mathbb{O} . All of them are composition algebras and possess an identity element. A *composition algebra* is an algebra (A, xy) over a field k of characteristic different from two equipped with a non-degenerate quadratic form $n : A \rightarrow k$, (the *norm* of A) satisfying $n(xy) = n(x)n(y)$ for all $x, y \in A$. A composition algebra with an identity element is called a *Hurwitz algebra*. Hurwitz algebras exist in dimension 1, 2, 4 and 8 only, and they are determined up to isomorphism by the equivalence class of their norm. Over the real numbers, the Hurwitz division algebras are precisely \mathbb{R} , \mathbb{C} , \mathbb{H} and \mathbb{O} . Isotopes of these algebras are a valuable source of real division algebras.

An algebra (A, xy) is *alternative* if the identities

$$x^2y = x(xy) \quad \text{and} \quad yx^2 = (yx)x$$

hold in A , equivalently, if every subalgebra of A generated by two elements is associative.

Key words and phrases. Division algebra, quasigroup, isotopy, inversion, Hurwitz algebra.

The first author was partly supported by the Swedish Research Council, Grant no. 623-2009709, the second author by the Spanish Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación (MTM2010-18370-C04-03).

Zorn [30] showed in 1931 that every central simple alternative algebra (in particular every alternative division algebra) is either associative or a so-called octonion algebra (i.e., an eight-dimensional Hurwitz algebra). In particular, every alternative division algebra over \mathbb{R} is isomorphic to either \mathbb{R} , \mathbb{C} , \mathbb{H} or \mathbb{O} . Later generalisations of Zorn's result includes the classification of all real power-associative division algebras of dimension four [23, 13] and all real flexible division algebras [3, 8, 10, 11].

In every alternative algebra, the *Moufang* and *Bol identities*

$$\begin{aligned} ((xy)x)z &= x(y(xz)) && \text{(the left Moufang identity),} \\ z(x(yx)) &= ((zx)y)x && \text{(the right Moufang identity),} \\ (xy)(zx) &= (x(yz))x && \text{(the middle Moufang identity),} \\ (x(yx))z &= x(y(xz)) && \text{(the left Bol identity),} \\ z((xy)x) &= ((zx)y)x && \text{(the right Bol identity)} \end{aligned}$$

hold. In [21] Kunen proves that a quasigroup satisfying any of the Moufang identities has unit element. Quasigroups with (resp. left, right) unit element are called (resp. left, right) *loops*. In particular, a division algebra satisfying any of the Moufang identities is alternative. In [9], Cuenca-Mira classifies all real division algebras satisfying any of the Bol identities. He shows that every such algebra can be obtained from an alternative algebra (A, xy) by changing the product to either $x \circ y = \sigma(x)y$ or $x \circ y = x\sigma(y)$, where σ is an involutive automorphism of (A, xy) . Results of this kind, where certain hypotheses imply that the algebra can be described as an isotope of another well-known algebra were very much promoted in the theory of quasigroups by V.D. Belousov. One of the most popular theorems in this direction is Belousov's theorem about balanced identities [2]. A *balanced identity* is a non-trivial identity of the form

$$(1) \quad p(x_1, \dots, x_n) = q(x_1, \dots, x_n),$$

where p and q are two distinct, non-associative words in the letters x_1, \dots, x_n , and the degree of each letter in both p and q is one. Two variables x_i, x_j are said to be *separated* in q if neither $x_i x_j$ nor $x_j x_i$ occur in q . A generalization of Belousov's theorem, given in [28], establishes that if a quasigroup satisfies a balanced identity $p(x_1, \dots, x_n) = q(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ with the property that p contains a subword $x_i x_j$ and x_i and x_j are separated in q then the quasigroup is an isotope of a group. See [14] for another generalization and [20] for a discussion on the topic.

In this paper we will follow Belousov's ideas by studying some general conditions under which a real division algebra is an isotope of \mathbb{R} , \mathbb{C} , \mathbb{H} or \mathbb{O} . We will concentrate on the following types of division algebras:

- (1) division algebras with inversion on the left,
- (2) division algebras satisfying a quasigroup identity.

Usually two extra operations $(x, y) \mapsto x \setminus y = L_x^{-1}(y)$ and $(x, y) \mapsto x / y = R_y^{-1}(x)$ are considered on quasigroups. They are related to the product by

$$x \setminus (xy) = y = x(x \setminus y) \quad \text{and} \quad (xy) / y = x = (x / y)y.$$

We say that a division algebra (A, xy) satisfies a *quasigroup identity* if the quasigroup $A \setminus \{0\}$ satisfies some identity expressible only in terms of the operations xy , $x \setminus y$ and x / y (i.e., they do not involve addition, subtraction or multiplication by scalars). To illustrate our results, let us consider for instance identities in three variables x, y, z , in which x appears three times on each side while y, z only appear once. We further assume that on each side, x, y and z appear from left to right in the following order: x, x, y, x and z . There are 14 ways of placing parentheses on $xyxz$, so there are 91 possible identities. Some of them are immediate consequences of identities of lower degree and they will be not considered. This is the case, for example, with $((xx)y)xz = ((x(xy))x)z$ and $((x(xy))x)z = (x(xy))(xz)$,

TABLE 1. Some examples of quasigroup identities

1	$((xx)y)xz = (x(xy))(xz)$	2	$((xx)y)xz = (xx)((yx)z)$
3	$((xx)y)xz = (xx)(y(xz))$	4	$((xx)y)xz = x((xy)x)z$
5	$((xx)y)xz = x((x(yx))z)$	6	$((xx)y)xz = x((xy)(xz))$
7	$((xx)y)xz = x(x((yx)z))$	8	$((xx)y)xz = x(x(y(xz)))$
9	$(x(xy))xz = ((xx)y)(xz)$	10	$(x(xy))xz = (xx)((yx)z)$
11	$(x(xy))xz = (xx)(y(xz))$	12	$(x(xy))xz = x((x(yx))z)$
13	$(x(xy))xz = x(x((yx)z))$	14	$(x(xy))xz = x(x(y(xz)))$
15	$(xx)(yx)z = ((xx)y)(xz)$	16	$(xx)(yx)z = (x(xy))(xz)$
17	$(xx)(yx)z = (xx)(y(xz))$	18	$(xx)(yx)z = x((xy)x)z$
19	$(xx)(yx)z = x((xy)(xz))$	20	$(xx)(yx)z = x(x(y(xz)))$
21	$x((xy)x)z = ((xx)y)(xz)$	22	$x((xy)x)z = (xx)((yx)z)$
23	$x((xy)x)z = (xx)(y(xz))$	24	$x((xy)x)z = x((x(yx))z)$
25	$x((xy)x)z = x(x((yx)z))$	26	$x((xy)x)z = x(x(y(xz)))$
27	$x(x(yx))z = ((xx)y)(xz)$	28	$x(x(yx))z = (x(xy))(xz)$
29	$x(x(yx))z = (xx)(y(xz))$	30	$x(x(yx))z = x((xy)x)z$
31	$x(x(yx))z = x((xy)(xz))$	32	$x(x(yx))z = x(x(y(xz)))$
33	$((xx)y)(xz) = (xx)((yx)z)$	34	$((xx)y)(xz) = x((xy)x)z$
35	$((xx)y)(xz) = x((x(yx))z)$	36	$((xx)y)(xz) = x(x((yx)z))$
37	$(x(xy))(xz) = (xx)((yx)z)$	38	$(x(xy))(xz) = x((x(yx))z)$
39	$(x(xy))(xz) = x(x((yx)z))$	40	$(xx)((yx)z) = x((xy)x)z$
41	$(xx)((yx)z) = x((xy)(xz))$	42	$(xx)((yx)z) = x(x(y(xz)))$
43	$(xx)(y(xz)) = x((xy)x)z$	44	$(xx)(y(xz)) = x(x(y(xz)))$
45	$(xx)(y(xz)) = x(x((yx)z))$		

and many others. The remaining identities are collected in Table 1. A direct application of our Corollary 26 shows that, with the exception of the identities 2, 7, 10, 13, 22, 25 and 40, a real division algebra satisfying any of these identities is isotopic to either \mathbb{R} , \mathbb{C} , \mathbb{H} or \mathbb{O} . This approach also works when the order of the variables is $xyxxz$, $xyzyx$, $yxxzx$, $xyzzx$ or $yxzzx$, while it is less successful when the order is $yzxxx$, $yxxxx$ or $xxxzy$.

A division algebra (A, xy) is said to have *inversion on the left* (or, for short, have *inversion*) if for every non-zero element $a \in A$ there exists an element $b \in A$ such that $L_a^{-1} = L_b$. If A has inversion then the element $b \in A$ is uniquely determined by a , and the map $s : A \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow A \setminus \{0\}$ defined by $L_a^{-1} = L_{s(a)}$ is called the *inversion map* on A . Division algebras with inversion are studied in Section 2. A complete and irredundant classification, in 11 parameters, is given in dimension four over \mathbb{R} . In dimension eight, the isomorphism classes of left-unital real division algebras with inversion are shown to be parametrized by the orbits of an action of the Lie group \mathcal{G}_2 on a certain, 56-dimensional manifold. We also study division algebras (A, xy) with inversion for which the inversion map s satisfies $s(ab) = s(b)s(a)$ for all $a, b \in A$, and show that over the real numbers, there are precisely ten isomorphism classes of such algebras.

In Section 4 we state a general result (Theorem 25 and Corollary 26) with which one can prove that, for many types of identities, the division algebras satisfying them are isotopes of \mathbb{R} , \mathbb{C} , \mathbb{H} or \mathbb{O} . In Section 5 we use this criterion to classify certain families of division algebras. Finally, the proof of Theorem 25 is given in Section 6.

Although our main focus is on real division algebras, results are stated for algebras over general fields when possible.

A few words about notation. For any algebra (A, xy) , we write $L_A = \{L_a \mid a \in A\}$ and $R_A = \{R_a \mid a \in A\}$. If some other algebra structure $x \circ y$ is defined on A , we

use $L_a^\circ(x) = a \circ x$ and $R_a^\circ(x) = x \circ a$ to denote the left and right multiplication with respect to \circ , and define L_A° and R_A° analogously. The n th power of an element x in (A, \circ) (when well defined) is written as $x^{\circ n}$. The inverse of a non-zero element x in a Hurwitz division algebra A is denoted by x^{-1} , regardless of what symbol is used to denote the product in A .

Recall that Hurwitz algebras (A, xy) are *quadratic algebras*: there exists a linear form t on A such that

$$x^2 - t(x)x + n(x)1_A = 0$$

for all $x \in A$. The linear form t is called the *trace* of A , and satisfies $t(x) = 2(x, 1_A)$, where $(x, y) = \frac{1}{2}(n(x+y) - n(x) - n(y))$ is the bilinear form associated with the quadratic form n . The kernel of t , denoted by $\text{Im } A$, is the orthogonal complement of the identity element with respect to (\cdot, \cdot) , also

$$\text{Im } A = \{x \in A \setminus k1_A \mid x^2 \in k1_A\} \cup \{0\}.$$

Every Hurwitz algebra (A, xy) has a distinguished anti-automorphism of order two (or involution) $\kappa : A \rightarrow A$, $x \mapsto \bar{x} = t(x)1_A - x$ called the *standard involution*. An element $a \in A$ is invertible if and only if $n(a) \neq 0$, in which case $a^{-1} = n(a)^{-1}\bar{a}$. We refer to [27] for a detailed account of the many properties of Hurwitz algebras.

2. DIVISION ALGEBRAS WITH INVERSION ON THE LEFT

Given any Euclidean space V , denote by $\text{Pds}(V)$ the set of positive definite symmetric linear endomorphisms of V , and $\text{SPds}(V) = \text{Pds}(V) \cap \text{SL}(V)$. If (A, xy) is an algebra and $\alpha, \beta \in \text{GL}(A)$, then $A_{\alpha, \beta} = (A, xy)_{\alpha, \beta}$ denotes the isotope (A, \circ) of A with multiplication defined by $x \circ y = \alpha(x)\beta(y)$.

Lemma 1. *If (A, xy) is a division algebra with inversion on the left, then $L_a L_b L_a \in L_A$ for all $a, b \in A$.*

Proof. The statement is obvious in case $L_b = L_a^{-1}$, or if either of a, b is zero. Otherwise, Hua's identity (see [18, p. 92]) implies

$$L_a L_b L_a = L_a + \left((L_a - L_b^{-1})^{-1} - L_a^{-1} \right)^{-1}.$$

Since A has inversion on the left, the right hand side of the equation is in L_A . \square

Proposition 2. (1) *A division algebra is alternative if and only if it is unital and has inversion on the left.*

(2) *If (A, xy) is a division algebra with inversion and $e \in A$ a non-zero element, then $A = B_{\alpha, \beta}$ for an alternative division algebra $B = (A, *)$, with $\alpha = R_e$ and $\beta = L_e$ being, respectively, the right and left multiplication operators in A with the element e .*

(3) *Let (B, xy) be a division algebra with inversion on the left, and $\alpha, \beta \in \text{GL}(B)$. Now $B_{\alpha, \beta}$ has inversion on the left if and only if $\beta L_B \beta = L_B$ or, equivalently, if and only if there exists $\psi \in \text{GL}(B)$ such that $\beta(xy) = \psi(x)\beta^{-1}(y)$ for all $x, y \in B$.*

Proof. 1. Every alternative division algebra (A, xy) is unital [25, Theorem 3.10], and every $a \in A \setminus \{0\}$ has a two-sided inverse a^{-1} satisfying $L_a^{-1} = L_{a^{-1}}$. Conversely, assume (A, xy) is a unital division algebra with inversion on the left. By Lemma 1, for all $a, b \in A \setminus \{0\}$ there is a $c \in A$ such that $L_a L_b L_a = L_c$. Inserting $b = 1$ and evaluating in 1 gives $L_a^2 = L_{a^2}$ for all $a \in A$, i.e., A is left alternative. But every left alternative division algebra is alternative [29, p. 345], so A is alternative.

2. Let (A, xy) be a division algebra with inversion, and $e \in A$ any non-zero element. Now the isotope $A_{R_e^{-1}, L_e^{-1}} = (A, *)$ satisfies $L_a^* = L_{R_e^{-1}(a)} L_e^{-1}$, so $L_A^* = L_A L_e^{-1}$. Hence, by Lemma 1,

$$(L_a^*)^{-1} = L_e L_{R_e^{-1}(a)}^{-1} = L_e L_{s(R_e^{-1}(a))} L_e^{-1} \in L_A L_e^{-1} = L_A^*$$

so $A_{R_e^{-1}, L_e^{-1}}$ has inversion. Since e^2 is an identity element with respect to the product $*$, by (1) we conclude that $B = A_{R_e^{-1}, L_e^{-1}}$ is alternative, and $A = B_{R_e, L_e}$.

3. Let (B, xy) be a division algebra with inversion, $\alpha, \beta \in \text{GL}(B)$, and $A = (B, \circ) = B_{\alpha, \beta}$. For $a \in A$, we have $L_a^\circ = L_{\alpha(a)} \beta$, so $L_A^\circ = L_B \beta$, and

$$(L_a^\circ)^{-1} = \beta^{-1} L_{\alpha(a)}^{-1} = \beta^{-1} L_{s(\alpha(a))} \beta^{-1} \beta.$$

Hence A has inversion if and only if $\beta^{-1} L_B \beta^{-1} = L_B$, equivalently, $\beta L_B \beta = L_B$.

Suppose that $\beta L_B \beta = L_B$. Then there exists a linear map $\psi \in \text{GL}(B)$ such that $\beta L_a \beta = L_{\psi(a)}$ for all $a \in B$. Now $\beta(a\beta(b)) = \psi(a)b$ for all $a, b \in B$. Substituting $c = \beta(b)$ gives $\beta(ac) = \psi(a)\beta^{-1}(c)$ for all $a, c \in B$. Conversely it is clear that the last equation implies $\beta L_a \beta = L_{\psi(a)}$ for all $a \in B$. \square

Corollary 3. *Every division algebra with inversion that contains a non-zero idempotent is an isotope $B_{\alpha, \sigma}$, where B is an alternative division algebra, $\alpha(1_B) = 1_B$ and σ is an automorphism of B with $\sigma^2 = \text{id}_B$. Conversely, every isotope of this kind has inversion.*

Proof. Let $e \in A \setminus \{0\}$ be an idempotent. By Proposition 2(2), $(A, \circ) = B_{\alpha, \sigma}$, where B is alternative with identity element $e \circ e = e$, $\alpha = R_e^\circ$ and $\sigma = L_e^\circ$. In particular, $\alpha(e) = \sigma(e) = e$.

Proposition 2(3) now gives $\sigma(ab) = \psi(a)\sigma^{-1}(b)$ for all $a, b \in B$. Inserting $b = e$ into this equation yields $\sigma(a) = \psi(a)$, that is, $\sigma = \psi$. If instead $a = e$, then $\sigma(b) = \psi(1_B)\sigma^{-1}(b) = \sigma(e)\sigma^{-1}(b) = \sigma^{-1}(b)$, hence $\sigma = \sigma^{-1}$. This means that $\sigma(ab) = \sigma(a)\sigma(b)$ for all $a, b \in B$, so $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(B)$.

The converse is clear, in view of Proposition 2(3). \square

Remark 4. Every division algebra over \mathbb{R} contains a non-zero idempotent [26]. Hence if such an algebra has inversion, it is isomorphic to an isotope of the type given in Corollary 3. Any alternative real division algebra is isomorphic to either \mathbb{R} , \mathbb{C} , \mathbb{H} or \mathbb{O} [30].

Proposition 5. *Let $A_{\alpha, \sigma} = (A, *)$ and $B_{\beta, \tau} = (B, \circ)$ be isotopes of alternative division algebras (A, xy) , $(B, x \cdot y)$ of the type given in Corollary 3. Then*

$$\{\varphi \in \text{Mor}(A_{\alpha, \sigma}, B_{\beta, \tau}) \mid \varphi(1_A) = 1_B\} = \{\varphi \in \text{Mor}(A, B) \setminus \{0\} \mid \varphi\alpha = \beta\varphi, \varphi\sigma = \tau\varphi\}$$

Proof. It is readily verified that any morphism $\varphi : A \rightarrow B$ satisfying $\varphi\alpha = \beta\varphi$ and $\varphi\sigma = \tau\varphi$ is a morphism $A_{\alpha, \sigma} \rightarrow B_{\beta, \tau}$. If φ is non-zero then $\varphi(1_A) = 1_B$.

Suppose $\varphi \in \text{Mor}(A_{\alpha, \sigma}, B_{\beta, \tau})$ and $\varphi(1_A) = 1_B$. By definition,

$$(2) \quad \varphi(\alpha(x)\sigma(y)) = \varphi(x * y) = \varphi(x) \circ \varphi(y) = \beta\varphi(x) \cdot \tau\varphi(y)$$

for all $x, y \in A$. Setting $y = 1_A$ in this equation yields $\varphi\sigma = \tau\varphi$; setting $x = 1_A$ yields $\varphi\alpha = \beta\varphi$. Consequently, $\varphi\alpha(x) \cdot \varphi\sigma(y) = \beta\varphi(x) \cdot \tau\varphi(y) = \varphi(\alpha(x)\sigma(y))$ holds for all $x, y \in A$. Since α and σ are bijective, this means that $\varphi(x) \cdot \varphi(y) = \varphi(xy)$ for all $x, y \in A$, which proves that φ is a morphism $A \rightarrow B$. \square

We denote by $\mathcal{J}(k)$ the category of all division algebras over k with inversion on the left. Furthermore, $\mathcal{J}_n(k)$ denotes the full subcategory of $\mathcal{J}(k)$ formed by all objects of dimension n , $\mathcal{J}^1(k)$ the full subcategory formed by all object with left unity, and $\mathcal{J}_n^1(k) = \mathcal{J}^1(k) \cap \mathcal{J}_n(k)$. As it will turn out to be convenient in the sequel, we stipulate that morphisms in \mathcal{J} are non-zero.

2.1. The real, four-dimensional case. In this section, we investigate real division algebras of dimension four that have inversion on the left. Over \mathbb{R} , the quaternion algebra \mathbb{H} is the only alternative division algebra of dimension four, so by Proposition 2, the algebras of interest are of the form $A = \mathbb{H}_{\alpha, \beta}$ with $\alpha, \beta \in \text{GL}(\mathbb{H})$ such that $\beta L_{\mathbb{H}} \beta = L_{\mathbb{H}}$.

In any associative algebra or ring A , the set of invertible elements is denoted by A^\times . We denote by \mathbb{H} the group of quaternions of norm one, and set $\text{GO}(V, q) = \{\varphi \in \text{GL}(V) \mid \exists_{\mu \in k^\times} : q\varphi = \mu q\}$. The group $\{\mathbb{I}, \kappa\} \subseteq \text{O}(\mathbb{H})$ acts on $\text{GL}(\mathbb{H})$ by $\gamma^\lambda = \lambda\gamma\lambda$ ($\gamma \in \text{GL}(\mathbb{H})$, $\lambda \in \{\mathbb{I}, \kappa\}$), and $L_a^\kappa = R_{a^{-1}}$, $R_a^\kappa = L_{a^{-1}}$ for $a \in \hat{\mathbb{H}}$.

Proposition 6. *Let $\alpha, \beta \in \text{GL}(\mathbb{H})$. The isotope $\mathbb{H}_{\alpha, \beta}$ has inversion if and only if $\beta = L_a R_u$ for some $a, u \in \mathbb{H}^\times$, with $u^2 \in \mathbb{R}1_{\mathbb{H}}$.*

Proof. The “if” part of the proposition is easily verified. Suppose instead that $\beta L_{\mathbb{H}} \beta = L_{\mathbb{H}}$. Set $\tilde{\beta} = \beta$ if $\det \beta > 0$, and $\tilde{\beta} = \beta\kappa$ if $\det \beta < 0$. Now, polar decomposition (see e.g. [15, §14]), gives rise to a unique decomposition of $\tilde{\beta}$ as $\tilde{\beta} = \gamma\delta$, where $\gamma \in \text{SO}(\mathbb{H})$ and $\delta \in \text{Pds}(\mathbb{H})$. The map γ can in turn be written as $L_a R_u$ for some $a, u \in \hat{\mathbb{H}}$ [12, Corollary 9]. Hence we have $\beta = L_a R_u \delta\lambda$, with $\lambda \in \{\mathbb{I}, \kappa\}$, and this decomposition is unique up to simultaneous change of sign of the elements $a, u \in \mathbb{H}$.

For $x \in \mathbb{H}$, we have

$$\beta L_x \beta = L_a R_u \delta\lambda L_x L_a R_u \delta\lambda = L_a R_u L_x^\lambda L_a^\lambda R_u^\lambda \epsilon \delta^\lambda$$

where $\epsilon = (L_x^\lambda L_a^\lambda R_u^\lambda)^{-1} \delta L_x^\lambda L_a^\lambda R_u^\lambda \in \text{Pds}(\mathbb{H})$. Since $L_y, R_y, L_y^\lambda, R_y^\lambda \in \text{GO}(\mathbb{H})$ for all $y \in \mathbb{H}$ and $\beta L_x \beta \in L_{\mathbb{H}} \subseteq \text{GO}(\mathbb{H})$, we get $\epsilon \delta^\lambda \in \text{GO}(\mathbb{H})$. The uniqueness of polar decomposition now implies $\epsilon \delta^\lambda = \mu \mathbb{I}$ for some $\mu > 0$. Thus $\beta L_x \beta = \mu L_a R_u L_x^\lambda L_a^\lambda R_u^\lambda$.

If $\lambda = \kappa$, then $\beta L_x \beta = \mu L_{au^{-1}} R_{a^{-1}x^{-1}u}$, which is in $L_{\mathbb{H}}$ if and only if $a^{-1}x^{-1}u \in \mathbb{R}1_{\mathbb{H}}$. Consequently, $\beta L_{\mathbb{H}} \beta \not\subseteq L_{\mathbb{H}}$ in this case. Hence $\lambda = \mathbb{I}$, and we have $\beta L_x \beta = L_{axa} R_{u^2}$, which is in L_A if and only if $u^2 \in \mathbb{R}1_{\mathbb{H}}$.

Next, the identity $(L_x L_a R_u)^{-1} \delta L_x L_a R_u \delta^\lambda = \epsilon \delta^\lambda = \mu \mathbb{I}$ implies that $L_x^{-1} \delta L_x = \mu L_a R_u \delta^{-1} R_u^{-1} L_a^{-1}$. Since the right hand side is independent of x , this is only possible if δ commutes with every element in $L_{\mathbb{H}}$, that is, $\delta = \rho \mathbb{I}$ for some scalar $\rho > 0$. Hence, $\beta = \rho L_a R_u = L_{\rho a} R_u$, as asserted. \square

Set $U_{\mathbb{H}} = \{u \in \mathbb{H}^\times \mid u^2 \in \mathbb{R}1\}/\mathbb{R}^\times$. The group $\mathbb{H}^\times/\mathbb{R}^\times$ acts on the set $\mathcal{C} = \mathbb{H}^\times/\mathbb{R}^\times \times \text{SPds}(\mathbb{H}) \times U_{\mathbb{H}}$ by

$$(3) \quad s \cdot (a, \delta, u) = (c_s(a), c_s \delta c_s^{-1}, c_s(u))$$

where $c_s = L_s R_s^{-1}$. The results in [12, Section 3] now give the following corollary.

Corollary 7. *The category $\mathcal{I}_4(\mathbb{R})$ decomposes as a coproduct*

$$\mathcal{I}_4(\mathbb{R}) = \mathcal{I}_4(\mathbb{R})_1 \amalg \mathcal{I}_4(\mathbb{R})_{-1}$$

where, for $i = \pm 1$, $\mathcal{I}_4(\mathbb{R})_i \subseteq \mathcal{I}_4(\mathbb{R})$ is the full subcategory formed by all objects A satisfying $\text{sign}(\det(R_x)) = i$ for all $x \in A \setminus \{0\}$. For each $i = \pm 1$, the functor $\mathcal{M}_i : \mathbb{H}^\times/\mathbb{R}^\times \times \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{I}_4(\mathbb{R})_i$ defined for morphisms by $\mathcal{M}_i(s) = c_s$, and

$$\mathcal{M}_1(a, \delta, u) = \mathbb{H}_{L_a \delta, R_u}, \quad \mathcal{M}_{-1}(a, \delta, u) = \mathbb{H}_{R_a \delta \kappa, R_u}$$

for objects, is an equivalence.

Proof. This follows from Theorem 6 and Propositions 10, 11 and 12 in [12].

Observe that $\mathbb{H}_{\alpha, \beta} \in \mathcal{I}_4(\mathbb{R})$ belongs to $\mathcal{I}_4(\mathbb{R})_i$ if and only if $\text{sign}(\det(\alpha)) = i$, $i = \pm 1$. Thus this decomposition coincides the one given by [12, Proposition 10]. The groupoid $\mathbb{H}^\times/\mathbb{R}^\times \times \mathcal{C}$ may be viewed as a full subcategory of \mathcal{Z} defined in [12, Proposition 12] via the embedding $(a, \delta, u) \mapsto ((a, u), (\delta, \mathbb{I}))$. Now our Proposition 6, together with Proposition 11, 12 and Theorem 6 of [12] gives the result. \square

Our aim is to give a set of representatives for the $\mathbb{H}^\times/\mathbb{R}^\times$ -orbits of \mathcal{C} , thereby completing the classification of the four-dimensional real division algebras with inversion. Remember that $s \mapsto c_s$ defines an epimorphism $\mathbb{H}^\times \rightarrow \text{Aut}(\mathbb{H})$ with kernel \mathbb{R}^\times , inducing an isomorphism $\mathbb{H}^\times/\mathbb{R}^\times \rightarrow \text{Aut}(\mathbb{H})$. Below, we shall view \mathcal{C} as

an $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{H})$ -set with action defined through this isomorphism. Observe also that $\text{SO}(\text{Im } \mathbb{H}) \rightarrow \text{Aut}(\mathbb{H})$, $f \mapsto \mathbb{I}_{\mathbb{R}} \oplus f$ is an isomorphism. Choosing an orthonormal basis, we may identify $\text{Im } \mathbb{H}$ with the Euclidean space \mathbb{R}^3 , and hence \mathbb{H} with $\mathbb{R} \oplus \mathbb{R}^3$.

For $\delta \in \text{SPds}(\mathbb{H})$, we have $\delta = \begin{pmatrix} \beta & b^* \\ b & B \end{pmatrix}$ for some $\beta \in \mathbb{R}$, $b \in \mathbb{R}^3$ and $B \in \mathbb{R}^{3 \times 3}$. Now conjugation with $\varphi = \mathbb{I}_{\mathbb{R}} \oplus f \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{H})$ is given by

$$\varphi \delta \varphi^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} \beta & f(b)^* \\ f(b) & f B f^{-1} \end{pmatrix}.$$

The matrix B is symmetric, and hence is diagonalisable under conjugation with $\text{SO}(\mathbb{R}^3)$.

Set $\hat{\mathcal{C}} = \mathbb{H}^\times / \mathbb{R}^\times \times \text{Sym}(\mathbb{H}) \times U_{\mathbb{H}}$, with an $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{H})$ -action given by $\varphi \cdot (a, \delta, u) = (\varphi(a), \varphi \delta \varphi^{-1}, \varphi(u))$. Clearly, $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \hat{\mathcal{C}}$ as an $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{H})$ -set. The point of introducing this larger set is that we can find normal forms for $\hat{\mathcal{C}}$ and restrict back to \mathcal{C} , which turns out to have certain technical advantages over considering \mathcal{C} directly.

Define $\text{SO}(\mathbb{R}^3)$ -sets \mathcal{B}_{ij} , $i, j \in \{0, 1\}$ by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{B}_{00} &= \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^3) \times \mathbb{R}^3 \times \text{Sym}(\mathbb{R}^3) \times \mathbb{R}, & \mathcal{B}_{10} &= \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^3) \times \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^3) \times \mathbb{R}^3 \times \text{Sym}(\mathbb{R}^3) \times \mathbb{R}, \\ \mathcal{B}_{01} &= \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3 \times \text{Sym}(\mathbb{R}^3) \times \mathbb{R}, & \mathcal{B}_{11} &= \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^3) \times \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3 \times \text{Sym}(\mathbb{R}^3) \times \mathbb{R}. \end{aligned}$$

and $\text{SO}(\mathbb{R}^3)$ -actions

$$\begin{aligned} (4) \quad f \cdot (c, b, B, \beta) &= (f(c), f(b), f B f^{-1}, \beta) && \text{on } \mathcal{B}_{00} \text{ and } \mathcal{B}_{01}, \\ (5) \quad f \cdot (u, c, b, B, \beta) &= (f(u), f(c), f(b), f B f^{-1}, \beta) && \text{on } \mathcal{B}_{10} \text{ and } \mathcal{B}_{11}. \end{aligned}$$

Now define functors $\mathcal{N}_{ij} : \text{SO}(\mathbb{R}^3) \mathcal{B}_{ij} \rightarrow \text{Aut}(\mathbb{H}) \hat{\mathcal{C}}$ by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{N}_{00}(c, b, B, \beta) &= \left(\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ c \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \beta & b^* \\ b & B \end{pmatrix}, 1 \right), & \mathcal{N}_{10}(u, c, b, B, \beta) &= \left(\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ c \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \beta & b^* \\ b & B \end{pmatrix}, u \right), \\ \mathcal{N}_{01}(c, b, B, \beta) &= \left(\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ c \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \beta & b^* \\ b & B \end{pmatrix}, 1 \right), & \mathcal{N}_{11}(u, c, b, B, \beta) &= \left(\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ c \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \beta & b^* \\ b & B \end{pmatrix}, u \right). \end{aligned}$$

and $\mathcal{N}_{ij}(f) = \mathbb{I}_{\mathbb{R}} \oplus f$ for $f \in \text{SO}(\mathbb{R}^3)$. It is easy to see that each \mathcal{N}_{ij} is full and faithful, and that $\hat{\mathcal{C}} = \coprod_{i,j \in \{0,1\}} \mathcal{N}_{ij}(\mathcal{B}_{ij})$.

We proceed to find normal forms for the $\text{SO}(\mathbb{R}^3)$ -sets \mathcal{B}_{ij} . Let $\hat{\mathcal{T}} = \{d \in \mathbb{R}^3 \mid d_1 \leq d_2 \leq d_3\}$, $\mathcal{T} = \{d \in \hat{\mathcal{T}} \mid 0 < d_1\}$ and $D_d = \begin{pmatrix} d_1 & & \\ & d_2 & \\ & & d_3 \end{pmatrix}$ for any $d \in \mathbb{R}^3$. From the real spectral theorem follows that every orbit in \mathcal{B}_{ij} , $i, j \in \{0, 1\}$ contains an element for which the matrix $B \in \text{Sym}(\mathbb{R}^3)$ takes the form D_d for some $d \in \hat{\mathcal{T}}$ (d_1, d_2, d_3 being the eigenvalues of B), and d is an invariant for the orbit. The $\text{SO}(\mathbb{R}^3)$ -action on $\text{Sym}(\mathbb{R}^3)$ induced by either of (4) and (5) is given by conjugation, so its isotropy subgroup $\text{SO}_d(\mathbb{R}^3) \subseteq \text{SO}(\mathbb{R}^3)$ at D_d consists of all $f \in \text{SO}(\mathbb{R}^3)$ that leave the eigenspaces of D_d invariant. Thus

$$\text{SO}_d(\mathbb{R}^3) = \begin{cases} \text{SO}(\mathbb{R}^3) & \text{for all } d \in \hat{\mathcal{T}}_1 = \{d \in \hat{\mathcal{T}} \mid d_1 = d_2 = d_3\}, \\ \langle \iota(\text{SO}(\mathbb{R}^2)), \bar{\iota}(-\mathbb{I}_2) \rangle & \text{for all } d \in \hat{\mathcal{T}}_2 = \{d \in \hat{\mathcal{T}} \mid d_1 = d_2 < d_3\}, \\ \langle \bar{\iota}(\text{SO}(\mathbb{R}^2)), \iota(-\mathbb{I}_2) \rangle & \text{for all } d \in \hat{\mathcal{T}}_3 = \{d \in \hat{\mathcal{T}} \mid d_1 < d_2 = d_3\}, \\ \langle \iota(-\mathbb{I}_2), \bar{\iota}(-\mathbb{I}_2) \rangle & \text{for all } d \in \hat{\mathcal{T}}_4 = \{d \in \hat{\mathcal{T}} \mid d_1 < d_2 < d_3\}, \end{cases}$$

where ι and $\bar{\iota}$ are the embeddings $\text{SO}(\mathbb{R}^2) \rightarrow \text{SO}(\mathbb{R}^3)$ given by

$$\iota(\varphi) = \left(\begin{array}{c|cc} & 0 & 0 \\ \varphi & & \\ \hline 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right) \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{\iota}(\varphi) = \left(\begin{array}{c|cc} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & & \\ \hline 0 & & \varphi \end{array} \right)$$

respectively.

To obtain normal forms for the $\mathrm{SO}(\mathbb{R}^3)$ -sets \mathcal{B}_{ij} , it suffices to consider, for each $d \in \hat{\mathcal{T}}$, the action of $\mathrm{SO}_d(\mathbb{R}^3)$ on elements of the form (c, b, D_d, β) in \mathcal{B}_{0i} and (u, c, b, D_d, β) in \mathcal{B}_{1i} . As D_d and β are fixed by $\mathrm{SO}_d(\mathbb{R}^3)$, the essential problem is to find normal forms for the pairs (c, b) and (u, c, b) under the actions induced from (4) and (5). This is an elementary, though rather technical, task. Normal forms are listed in Appendix A. On this basis, we may state the following result. For $s \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$, set $\hat{\mathcal{D}}_s = \{D_d \mid d \in \hat{\mathcal{T}}_s\} \subseteq \mathrm{Sym}(\mathbb{R}^3)$ and $\mathcal{D}_s = \{D_d \mid d \in \mathcal{T}_s\} \subseteq \mathrm{Pds}(\mathbb{R}^3)$, and let \mathcal{N}_{ij}^s ($i, j \in \{0, 1\}$, $s \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$) be defined as in Appendix A.

Proposition 8. *For all $i, j \in \{0, 1\}$, the set*

$$\bigcup_{s=1}^4 \left(\mathcal{N}_{ij}^s \times \hat{\mathcal{D}}_s \times \mathbb{R} \right),$$

is a cross-section for the orbit set of the $\mathrm{SO}(\mathbb{R}^3)$ -set \mathcal{B}_{ij} .

By Proposition 8, the category $\hat{\mathcal{C}}$ is classified up to isomorphism. To classify \mathcal{C} , and thereby $\mathcal{I}_4(\mathbb{R})$, it now suffices to determine which elements in the classifying list of $\hat{\mathcal{C}}$ belong to \mathcal{C} .

Corollary 9. *For all $j \in \{0, 1\}$, the sets*

$$\mathcal{S}_{0j} = \left\{ (c, b, D_d, \beta) \in \bigcup_{s=1}^4 (\mathcal{N}_{0j}^s \times \mathcal{D}_s \times \mathbb{R}_{>0}) \mid \det \begin{pmatrix} \beta & b^* \\ b & D_d \end{pmatrix} = 1 \right\}$$

and

$$\mathcal{S}_{1j} = \left\{ (u, c, b, D_d, \beta) \in \bigcup_{s=1}^4 (\mathcal{N}_{1j}^s \times \mathcal{D}_s \times \mathbb{R}_{>0}) \mid \det \begin{pmatrix} \beta & b^* \\ b & D_d \end{pmatrix} = 1 \right\}$$

are cross-sections for the orbit sets of $\mathrm{SO}(\mathbb{R}^3)\mathcal{B}_{0j}$ and $\mathrm{SO}(\mathbb{R}^3)\mathcal{B}_{1j}$ respectively. Hence

$$\bigcup_{\substack{r=\pm 1 \\ i,j \in \{0,1\}}} \mathcal{M}_r(\mathcal{N}_{ij}(\mathcal{S}_{ij}))$$

is a cross-section for the isomorphism classes in $\mathcal{I}_4(\mathbb{R})$.

We remark that $\det \begin{pmatrix} \beta & b^* \\ b & D_d \end{pmatrix} = \beta d_1 d_2 d_3 - b_1^2 d_2 d_3 - d_1 b_2^2 d_3 - d_1 d_2 b_3^2$.

Proof. An element $(a, \delta, u) \in \hat{\mathcal{C}}$ is in \mathcal{C} if and only if δ is positive definite and $\det(\delta) = 1$. By Sylvester's criterion, $\delta = \begin{pmatrix} \beta & b^* \\ b & D_d \end{pmatrix}$ is positive definite if and only if all its principal minors are positive. It is easy to see that this is equivalent to the determinant and the diagonal elements of δ being positive. Hence $d \in \mathcal{T}$, so $D_d \in \mathcal{D}_s$ for some s , and $\beta > 0$. Also, by assumption, $\det \delta = 1$. \square

It is not difficult to see that $\mathcal{M}_r(\mathcal{N}_{ij}(\mathcal{S}_{ij}))$ is left unital if and only if $i = 0$. Hence it follows from Corollary 9 that

$$\bigcup_{\substack{r=\pm 1 \\ j \in \{0,1\}}} \mathcal{M}_r(\mathcal{N}_{0j}(\mathcal{S}_{0j}))$$

classifies $\mathcal{I}_4^1(\mathbb{R})$. In the next section, an alternative approach to the left unital case is taken, aiming for an understanding of the eight-dimensional case.

2.2. The left unital case.

Lemma 10. *Let (A, xy) be a unital k -algebra, $\alpha \in \text{GL}(A)$, and $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(A)$ an automorphism such that $\sigma^2 = \mathbb{I}$. Then $A_{\alpha, \sigma}$ has left unity if and only if $\sigma = \mathbb{I}$.*

Proof. Write $(A, x \circ y) = A_{\alpha, \sigma}$. For any $x \in A$, we have $L_x^\circ = L_{\alpha(x)} \sigma$, thus $L_x^\circ = \mathbb{I}$ if and only if $L_{\alpha(x)} = \sigma^{-1} = \sigma$. Then $L_{\alpha(x)} \in \text{Aut}(A)$, implying $\alpha(x) = L_{\alpha(x)}(1_A) = 1_A$, hence $\sigma = L_{1_A} = \mathbb{I}$. Conversely, if $\sigma = \mathbb{I}$ then $\alpha^{-1}(1_A)$ is a left unity in $A_{\alpha, \sigma}$. \square

By Corollary 3 and Lemma 10, every object in $\mathcal{J}^1(\mathbb{R})$ is isomorphic to some $A_{\alpha, \mathbb{I}}$, where A is alternative and $\alpha(1_A) = 1_A$. Since the left unity is preserved by any algebra morphism, Proposition 5 gives a full characterisation of the morphisms between objects in $\mathcal{J}^1(\mathbb{R})$.

A *vector product algebra* is a Euclidean space $V = (V, \langle \rangle)$ endowed with an anti-commutative algebra structure π satisfying $\langle \pi(u, v), v \rangle = 0$ and $\langle \pi(u, v), \pi(u, v) \rangle = \langle u, u \rangle \langle v, v \rangle - \langle u, v \rangle^2$. The category of vector product algebras (V, π) (morphisms in which are orthogonal algebra morphisms) is equivalent to the category of real alternative division algebras; an equivalence is given by the construction $(V, \pi) \mapsto A(V, \pi)$, where $A(V, \pi) = \mathbb{R} \times V$ with multiplication

$$(\lambda, v)(\mu, w) = (\lambda\mu - \langle v, w \rangle, \lambda w + \mu v + \pi(v, w))$$

for objects, and $\varphi \mapsto \mathbb{I}_{\mathbb{R}} \times \varphi$ for morphisms.

For any Euclidean space V , denote by V^* its dual space. Let \mathcal{V} be the class of objects $(V, \beta, \delta, \sigma)$, where $V = (V, \pi_V)$ is a vector product algebra, and $(\beta, \delta, \sigma) \in \text{O}(V) \times \text{Pds}(V) \times V^*$. A morphism $\varphi : (V, \beta, \delta, \sigma) \rightarrow (W, \gamma, \epsilon, \tau)$ between objects in \mathcal{V} is defined to be a morphism $\varphi : (V, \pi_V) \rightarrow (W, \pi_W)$ satisfying $\varphi\beta = \gamma\varphi$, $\varphi\delta = \epsilon\varphi$ and $\sigma = \tau\varphi$. This gives \mathcal{V} the structure of a category.

Proposition 11. *The categories \mathcal{V} and $\mathcal{J}^1(\mathbb{R})$ are equivalent. An equivalence \mathcal{F} is given by $\mathcal{F}(V, \beta, \delta, \sigma) = A(V, \pi_V)_{\alpha, \mathbb{I}}$, where the linear map $\alpha \in \text{GL}(A(V, \pi_V))$ is given as*

$$\alpha = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \sigma \\ 0 & \delta\beta \end{pmatrix} : \mathbb{R} \times V \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \times V,$$

and $\mathcal{F}(f) = \mathbb{I}_{\mathbb{R}} \times f$ for morphisms.

Proof. Clearly, $\mathcal{F}(X) \in \mathcal{J}^1(\mathbb{R})$ for all $X \in \mathcal{V}$. Let $X = (V, \beta, \delta, \sigma)$ and $Y = (W, \gamma, \epsilon, \tau)$ be elements in \mathcal{V} , and let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a morphism in \mathcal{V} . We have $\mathcal{F}(X) = A(V, \pi_V)_{\psi, \mathbb{I}}$ and $\mathcal{F}(Y) = A(W, \pi_W)_{\chi, \mathbb{I}}$ with

$$\psi = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \sigma \\ 0 & \delta\beta \end{pmatrix} \in \text{GL}(\mathbb{R} \times V), \quad \chi = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \tau \\ 0 & \epsilon\gamma \end{pmatrix} \in \text{GL}(\mathbb{R} \times W).$$

Clearly, $\mathcal{F}(f)(1_{\mathcal{F}(X)}) = 1_{\mathcal{F}(Y)}$, and it is straightforward to verify that $\mathcal{F}(f)\psi = \chi\mathcal{F}(f)$. Since $\mathcal{F}(f)$ is a morphism $A(V, \pi_V) \rightarrow A(W, \pi_W)$ of alternative division algebras, Proposition 5 now implies that $\mathcal{F}(f) : \mathcal{F}(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(Y)$ is a morphism in $\mathcal{J}^1(\mathbb{R})$. This shows that \mathcal{F} is functorial.

Every $A \in \mathcal{J}^1(\mathbb{R})$ is isomorphic to an isotope $B_{\alpha, \mathbb{I}}$ of an alternative division algebra B , with $\alpha(1_B) = 1_B$. Let $V = \text{Im } B$, and π_V correspondingly defined by $\pi_V(v, w) = \frac{1}{2}[v, w]$. This construction is quasi-inverse to $(V, \pi) \mapsto A(V, \pi)$, thus $A(V, \pi_V) \simeq B$ (see e.g. [6]). Now α gives rise to a linear form $\sigma : V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and a linear endomorphism $\tilde{\alpha} : V \rightarrow V$ such that $\alpha(v) = \sigma(v)1_B + \tilde{\alpha}(v)$ for all $v \in V = \text{Im } B$. Since $\det(\alpha) = \det(\tilde{\alpha})$, the map $\tilde{\alpha}$ is invertible. Polar decomposition yields a unique pair $(\beta, \delta) \in \text{O}(V) \times \text{Pds}(V)$ such that $\tilde{\alpha} = \delta\beta$. It is now easy to verify that $\mathcal{F}(V, \beta, \delta, \sigma) \simeq B_{\alpha, \mathbb{I}} \simeq A$. Thus the functor $\mathcal{F} : \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{J}^1(\mathbb{R})$ is dense.

Assume $\varphi : \mathcal{F}(X) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(Y)$ is a morphism in $\mathcal{J}^1(\mathbb{R})$. The left unity of $\mathcal{F}(X) = A(V, \pi_V)_{\psi, \mathbb{I}}$ is the element $1_{A(V, \pi_V)}$, and it is mapped by φ to the left unity $1_{A(W, \pi_W)}$ in $\mathcal{F}(Y) = A(W, \pi_W)_{\chi, \mathbb{I}}$. Thus Proposition 5 applies, giving that φ is a morphism

$A(V, \pi_V) \rightarrow A(W, \pi_W)$ and $\varphi\psi = \chi\varphi$. This means that the restricted and corestricted map $f = \varphi|_V^W : V \rightarrow W$ is a morphism $(V, \pi_V) \rightarrow (W, \pi_W)$ of vector product algebras. Moreover, $\varphi\psi = \chi\varphi$ implies $\sigma = \tau f$ and $f\delta\beta = \epsilon\gamma f$. In particular, $\text{im}(\epsilon\gamma f) \subseteq \text{im}(f)$. Since non-zero morphisms of division algebras are always injective, we may apply f^{-1} from the left to obtain $\delta\beta = f^{-1}\epsilon\gamma f = (f^{-1}\epsilon f)(f^{-1}\gamma f)$. As $f^{-1}\epsilon f \in \text{Pds}(V)$ and $f^{-1}\gamma f \in \text{O}(V)$, uniqueness of the polar decomposition implies $\delta = f^{-1}\epsilon f$ and $\beta = f^{-1}\gamma f$, that is, $f\delta = \epsilon f$ and $f\beta = \gamma f$. Hence $f \in \text{Mor}_{\mathcal{V}}(X, Y)$, and $\varphi = \mathcal{F}(f)$, so \mathcal{F} is full.

Faithfulness is immediate from the definition of \mathcal{F} . \square

Corollary 12. *Let $n \in \{0, 1, 3, 7\}$. The category $\mathcal{S}_{n+1}^1(\mathbb{R})$ is equivalent to the groupoid \mathcal{X}_n of the action of $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{R}^n, \pi_n)$ on $\text{O}(\mathbb{R}^n) \times \text{Pds}(\mathbb{R}^n) \times \mathbb{R}^n$ given by*

$$(6) \quad f \cdot (\beta, \delta, s) = (f\beta f^{-1}, f\delta f^{-1}, f(s)).$$

Proof. Since morphisms in $\mathcal{S}(\mathbb{R})$ are injective, all morphisms in $\mathcal{S}_{n+1}^1(\mathbb{R})$ are isomorphisms, and so are all morphisms in the full subcategory $\mathcal{V}_n = \mathcal{F}^{-1}(\mathcal{S}_{n+1}^1(\mathbb{R})) \subseteq \mathcal{V}$. Thus a morphism $(\mathbb{R}^n, \beta, \delta, \sigma) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^n, \gamma, \epsilon, \tau)$ in \mathcal{V} is an element $f \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{R}^n, \pi_n)$ satisfying $f\beta = \gamma f$, $f\delta = \epsilon f$ and $\sigma = f\tau$. An equivalence $\mathcal{X}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{V}_n$ is given by $(\beta, \delta, s) \mapsto (\mathbb{R}^n, \beta, \delta, \sigma_s)$, where $\sigma_s(x) = \langle s, x \rangle$ for objects and $f \mapsto f$ for morphisms $f \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{R}^n, \pi_n)$. \square

The groupoid \mathcal{X}_7 is a 56-dimensional manifold, acted upon by the 14-dimensional Lie group $\mathcal{G}_2 = \text{Aut}(\mathbb{R}^7, \pi_7)$. Finding a cross-section for the orbit set of this group action would, although theoretically possible, be a very difficult task. Normal forms for elements in \mathcal{X}_7 of the form $(\beta, \mathbb{I}, 0)$ or $(\mathbb{I}, \delta, 0)$ can be obtained from the normal forms given in [7] and [11] for the \mathcal{G}_2 -action by conjugation on the sets $\text{O}(\mathbb{R}^7)$ and $\text{Pds}(\mathbb{R}^7)$ respectively.

3. DIVISION ALGEBRAS WITH INVOLUTIVE INVERSION

A division algebra A is said to have *involutive inversion* if it has inversion on the left and the inversion map $s : A \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow A \setminus \{0\}$ satisfies

$$s(ab) = s(b)s(a)$$

for all $a, b \in A \setminus \{0\}$. In this case $y = s(x(s(x)s(y))) = (yx)s(x)$, so

$$R_a^{-1} = R_{s(a)}$$

for any $a \neq 0$. In particular, the opposite algebra A^{op} of a division algebra A with involutive inversion is also a division algebra with involutive inversion.

Proposition 13. *An algebra (A, xy) is a division algebra with involutive inversion and a non-zero idempotent if and only if $xy = \tau(x) * \sigma(y)$ for some alternative division algebra $(A, *)$ and automorphisms σ, τ of $(A, *)$ with $\sigma^2 = \tau^2 = \mathbb{I}_A$ and $\sigma\tau\sigma = \tau\sigma\tau$.*

Proof. By Corollary 3 we can write the product on A as $xy = \alpha(x) * \tau(y)$ for some alternative division algebra $(A, *)$ and an automorphism $\tau = L_e$ of $(A, *)$ with $\tau^2 = \mathbb{I}_A$. Working with A^{op} we obtain that $xy = \sigma(x) * \tau(y)$ where $\sigma = R_e$ is another automorphism of $(A, *)$ satisfying $\sigma^2 = \mathbb{I}_A$. The condition $s(ab) = s(b)s(a)$ for all $a, b \neq 0$ is equivalent to $\sigma\tau\sigma = \tau\sigma\tau$. \square

Below, we shall often encounter isotopes $A_{\sigma, \tau}$ for which $\sigma^2 = \mathbb{I}_A$ and $\sigma\tau\sigma = \tau\sigma\tau$. We record the following observation.

Lemma 14. *Let G be a non-trivial group with unit element e , generated by x and y with $x^2 = e$ and $xyx = yxy$. Then $y^2 = e$ and G is a quotient of D_6 , the dihedral group with 6 elements, and hence isomorphic either to D_6 itself or to the cyclic group C_2 .*

Division algebras with involutive inversion and a non-zero idempotent are quite close to alternative algebras. The following proposition characterizes these algebras in terms of a quasigroup identity.

Proposition 15. *Let (A, xy) be a division algebra with a non-zero idempotent over a field of characteristic different from 2. Then A has involutive inversion if and only if it satisfies the identity*

$$(7) \quad x((yz)(xt)) = ((xy)(zx))t.$$

Proof. From the description of division algebras with involutive inversion and non-zero idempotents in Proposition 13, it is easily verified that these algebras satisfy the identity $x((yz)(xt)) = ((xy)(zx))t$.

Conversely, let e be a non-zero idempotent of a division algebra A that satisfies the identity $x((yz)(xt)) = ((xy)(zx))t$. Evaluating this identity at $x = y = z = e$ we obtain that $e(et) = t$ so $L_e^2 = \mathbb{I}_A$. The evaluation of the same identity at $x = y = t = e$ gives $L_e R_e L_e = R_e L_e R_e$. By Lemma 14 this implies that $R_e^2 = \mathbb{I}_A$.

Consider the new product $x * y = (xe)(ey)$ on A . The element e is the unit element of the new algebra $(A, *)$ and the new left multiplication operator by x is $L_x^* = L_{xe} L_e$. The identity $x((yz)(xt)) = ((xy)(zx))t$ implies that $L_x L_{yz} L_x = L_{(xy)(zx)}$, so $(L_x^*)^2 = (L_{xe} L_e L_{xe}) L_e = L_{x(e(xe))} L_e$ is again a left multiplication operator on $(A, x * y)$. Hence, the existence of unit element in $(A, x * y)$ implies $(L_x^*)^2 = L_{x*x}$, and since $(A, x * y)$ is a division algebra we can conclude that it is alternative.

Observe that $e(x * y) = e((xe)(ey)) = ((ex)e)y = (ex) * (ey)$, thus L_e is an automorphism of $(A, x * y)$. The identity $e((xe)(ey)) = ((ex)e)y$ implies that $(L_e, R_e L_e R_e, L_e) \in \text{Atp}(A)$ (see (19) below). Let $\alpha = R_e L_e R_e = L_e R_e L_e$. Evaluating (7) at $x = t = e$ we get that $e((yz)e) = ((ey)(ze))e$ so $\alpha(yz) = (ey)(ze)$. Therefore $(\alpha, L_e, R_e) \in \text{Atp}(A)$ and

$$\begin{aligned} (R_e, R_e, \alpha) &= (L_e \alpha L_e, \alpha L_e \alpha, L_e R_e L_e) \\ &= (L_e, \alpha, L_e)(\alpha, L_e, R_e)(L_e, \alpha, L_e) \in \text{Atp}(A). \end{aligned}$$

Hence $(x * y)e = ((xe)(ey))e = ((xe)e)\alpha(ey) = x(e(ye)) = (xe) * (ye)$. \square

Corollary 16. *A real division algebra (A, xy) has involutive inversion if and only if it satisfies the identity*

$$x((yz)(xt)) = ((xy)(zx))t.$$

We now proceed to classify all real division algebras with involutive inversion. Proposition 17 gives the classification result, and its proof occupies the remainder of this section. In stark contrast with the more general situation treated in Section 2, the real division algebras with involutive inversion comprise only finitely many isomorphism classes in each dimension.

A *Cayley triple* in \mathbb{O} is a triple (u, v, z) of unit vectors in $\text{Im}(\mathbb{O})$ such that u, v, uv, z are mutually orthogonal. The automorphism group of \mathbb{O} acts simply transitively on the set of Cayley triples in \mathbb{O} , by $\varphi \cdot (u, v, z) = (\varphi(u), \varphi(v), \varphi(z))$, i.e., fixing a Cayley triple (i, j, l) , there is a bijection between $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{O})$ and the set of Cayley triples in \mathbb{O} , given by $\varphi \mapsto \varphi \cdot (i, j, l)$. Similarly for the quaternions, $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{H})$ acts simply transitively on the set of orthonormal pairs in $\text{Im}(\mathbb{H})$, so every automorphism of \mathbb{H} is uniquely determined by the images of the standard basis vectors i and j .

For ease of notation, we set $(c, s) = (\cos(2\pi/3), \sin(2\pi/3)) = (-1/2, \sqrt{3}/2)$.

Proposition 17. *There exist precisely ten isomorphism classes of real division algebras with involutive inversion, each isomorphic to an isotope $B_{\sigma, \tau}$ of an alternative division algebra B , with $\sigma, \tau \in \text{Aut}(B)$ as follows:*

If $B = \mathbb{R}$:

$$(8) \quad \sigma = \tau = \mathbb{I}_{\mathbb{R}}.$$

If $B = \mathbb{C}$:

$$(9) \quad \sigma = \tau = \mathbb{I}_{\mathbb{C}} \quad \text{or}$$

$$(10) \quad \sigma = \tau = \kappa.$$

If $B = \mathbb{H}$:

$$(11) \quad \sigma = \tau = \mathbb{I}_{\mathbb{H}},$$

$$(12) \quad \sigma \cdot (i, j) = \tau \cdot (i, j) = (i, -j), \quad \text{or}$$

$$(13) \quad \sigma \cdot (i, j) = (i, -j), \quad \tau \cdot (i, j) = (ci + sj, si - cj).$$

If $B = \mathbb{O}$:

$$(14) \quad \sigma = \tau = \mathbb{I}_{\mathbb{O}},$$

$$(15) \quad \sigma \cdot (i, j, l) = \tau \cdot (i, j, l) = (i, j, -l),$$

$$(16) \quad \begin{cases} \sigma \cdot (i, j, l) = (-i, -j, l), \\ \tau \cdot (i, j, l) = (-i, -j, cl + sil), \end{cases} \quad \text{or}$$

$$(17) \quad \begin{cases} \sigma \cdot (i, j, l) = (i, j, -l), \\ \tau \cdot (i, j, l) = (ci + sil, cj + sjl, -l). \end{cases}$$

It is easy to check that all the pairs of automorphisms σ and τ defined in Proposition 17 satisfy the conditions

$$(18) \quad \sigma^2 = \tau^2 = (\tau\sigma)^3 = \mathbb{I}_B,$$

hence the resulting algebras have involutive inversion. Below, we shall prove that every real division algebra with involutive inversion is isomorphic to one of these, and that they are mutually non-isomorphic.

Every pair σ, τ of automorphisms of a real alternative division algebra B satisfying (18) define a representation of $D_6 = \langle a, b \mid a^2 = b^2 = (ab)^3 = \mathbb{I}_B \rangle$ on B via $a \mapsto \sigma$, $b \mapsto \tau$. The irreducible real representations of D_6 are the trivial representation, the sign representation, and the natural representation (viewing D_6 as a subgroup of $GL_2(\mathbb{R})$ in the natural way). We denote these representations by *triv*, *sign* and *nat*, respectively.

Setting $T_{\sigma, \tau} = \ker(\sigma - \mathbb{I}_B) \cap \ker(\tau - \mathbb{I}_B)$, $S_{\sigma, \tau} = \ker(\sigma + \mathbb{I}_B) \cap \ker(\tau + \mathbb{I}_B)$, and $N_{\sigma, \tau} = T_{\sigma, \tau}^\perp \cap S_{\sigma, \tau}^\perp \subset B$, we have $B = T_{\sigma, \tau} \oplus S_{\sigma, \tau} \oplus N_{\sigma, \tau}$ as a D_6 -module, and $T_{\sigma, \tau} \simeq \dim(T_{\sigma, \tau}) \text{triv}$, $S_{\sigma, \tau} \simeq \dim(S_{\sigma, \tau}) \text{sign}$, $N_{\sigma, \tau} \simeq (\dim(N_{\sigma, \tau})/2) \text{nat}$. Observe that since $\sigma, \tau \in \text{Aut}(B) \subset O(B)$, the above direct sum decomposition is orthogonal, and $1_B \in T_{\sigma, \tau}$.

Define $\rho = \tau\sigma \in \text{Aut}(B)$. Now ρ acts as the identity on $T_{\sigma, \tau} \oplus S_{\sigma, \tau}$, while $\rho|_{N_{\sigma, \tau}}$ is a rotation with angle $2\pi/3$: $\langle \rho(x), x \rangle = \|x\|^2 \cos(2\pi/3)$ for every $x \in N_{\sigma, \tau}$.

Lemma 18. *For all $x \in N_{\sigma, \tau}$, there exists a unit vector $y \in S_{\sigma, \tau}$ such that $\sigma(x)\tau(x) = -\|x\|^2(c - sy)$. Moreover, $\sigma(c - sy)\tau(c - sy) = c - sy$.*

Proof. We may assume that $\|x\| = 1$. Now $\rho(x)x = -\langle \rho(x), x \rangle + \rho(x) \times x = -c - sy$ for some unit vector $y \in \text{Im}(B)$, where ' \times ' denotes the vector product on $\text{Im}(B)$ (cf. Section 2.2). The subspace $\text{span}\{x, \rho(x)\} \subset B$ is a submodule, isomorphic to the natural representation of D_6 . Hence there exist vectors $u, u', v, v' \in \text{span}\{x, \rho(x)\}$ such that $\sigma(u) = u$, $\sigma(u') = -u'$, $\tau(v) = v$ and $\tau(v') = -v'$, hence $\sigma(u \times u') = -u \times u'$ and $\tau(v \times v') = -v \times v'$. But $y = \frac{1}{s}(\rho(x) - \langle \rho(x), x \rangle)x = \pm u \times u' = \pm v \times v'$, so $y \in \ker(\sigma + \mathbb{I}) \cap \ker(\tau + \mathbb{I}) = S_{\sigma, \tau}$.

It follows that $\sigma(x)\tau(x) = \tau(\rho(x)x) = -c - \tau(y) = -(c - sy)$. A direct computation gives $\sigma(c - sy)\tau(c - sy) = c - sy$. \square

Lemma 19. *Let $A = \mathbb{O}_{\alpha,\beta}$ and $B = \mathbb{O}_{\sigma,\tau}$, where $\alpha, \beta, \sigma, \tau \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{O})$. Assume that the representations of D_6 given by α, β and σ, τ are isomorphic to $2 \text{triv} \oplus 2 \text{sign} \oplus 2 \text{nat}$ respectively $\text{triv} \oplus \text{sign} \oplus 3 \text{nat}$. Then the algebras A and B are not isomorphic.*

Proof. Write $A = (\mathbb{O}, \circ)$ and $B = (\mathbb{O}, *)$. By Lemma 18, the square of every element in the 6-dimensional subspace $N_{\sigma,\tau} \subset B$ is proportional to an idempotent, and since $\dim S_{\sigma,\tau} = 1$ it follows that the idempotent is the same for all elements in $N_{\sigma,\tau}$. Suppose that $U \subset A$ is a subspace of dimension 6 such that the square of every element is proportional to a fixed idempotent e . Then U intersects the subspace $V = (T_{\alpha,\beta} \oplus S_{\alpha,\beta}) \cap \text{Im } \mathbb{O}$ non-trivially, and since $x^{\circ 2} \in \text{span}\{1_{\mathbb{O}}\}$ for every $x \in V$, it follows that $e = 1_{\mathbb{O}}$. On the other hand, it is easy to see that $\{x \in A \mid x^{\circ 2} \in \text{span}\{1_{\mathbb{O}}\}\} = \text{span}\{1_{\mathbb{O}}\} \cup V$, so no 6-dimensional subspace U with the desired property can exist in A . This means that A and B are not isomorphic. \square

Lemma 19 implies that the algebras specified by (16) and (17) are not isomorphic. In addition, the algebras defined by (14) and (15) are distinguished from the ones defined by (16) and (17) by the existence of a non-zero central idempotent, while the one defined by (14) is unique among the four above-mentioned in having an identity element. Thus these algebras are mutually non-isomorphic. Similarly, in the 4-dimensional case, the algebra defined by (11) is unital, while the one defined by (12) has a non-zero central idempotent which is not an identity element. This shows that the algebras defined in Proposition 17 belong to different isomorphism classes.

To prove Proposition 17, it remains to show that every real division algebra with involutive inversion is isomorphic to one of those specified by (8)–(17). First, if B is a real alternative division algebra and $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(B)$ an automorphism of order two, then $\dim(\ker(\sigma - \mathbb{I})) = \dim(\ker(\sigma + \mathbb{I})) = \dim(B)/2$. Consequently, if $\sigma, \tau \in \text{Aut}(B)$ satisfy (18) then either $\sigma = \tau = \mathbb{I}_B$ or $\dim(S_{\sigma,\tau}) = \dim(T_{\sigma,\tau}) \neq 0$. Hence, as a D_6 -module, B must be isomorphic to either

triv			if $B \simeq \mathbb{R}$,
2 triv,		or triv \oplus sign	if $B \simeq \mathbb{C}$,
4 triv,	2 triv \oplus 2 sign,	or triv \oplus sign \oplus nat	if $B \simeq \mathbb{H}$,
8 triv,	4 triv \oplus 4 sign,	3 triv \oplus 3 sign \oplus nat,	
	2 triv \oplus 2 sign \oplus 2 nat,	or triv \oplus sign \oplus 3 nat	if $B \simeq \mathbb{O}$.

This immediately gives the result for $\dim B \leq 2$.

If $B_{\alpha,\beta}$ and $B_{\sigma,\tau}$ have involutive inversion and $\varphi \in \text{Aut}(B)$ satisfies $(\sigma, \tau) = (\varphi\alpha\varphi^{-1}, \varphi\beta\varphi^{-1})$, then $\varphi : B_{\alpha,\beta} \rightarrow B_{\sigma,\tau}$ is an isomorphism of algebras as well as of D_6 -modules. Assume that $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{O}) \setminus \{\mathbb{I}_{\mathbb{O}}\}$ and $\sigma^2 = \mathbb{I}_{\mathbb{O}}$. Then there exists a Cayley triple (u, v, z) in \mathbb{O} such that $u, v \in \ker(\sigma - \mathbb{I}_{\mathbb{O}})$, $z \in \ker(\sigma + \mathbb{I}_{\mathbb{O}})$, i.e., there is an automorphism φ of \mathbb{O} such that $\varphi\sigma\varphi^{-1} \cdot (i, j, l) = (i, j, -l)$. This proves that $\mathbb{O}_{\sigma,\sigma}$ is isomorphic to the algebra given by (15). Similarly, one proves that if σ is an automorphism of \mathbb{H} of order two then $\mathbb{H}_{\sigma,\sigma}$ is isomorphic to the algebra specified by (12).

From here on, assume that $\sigma, \tau \in \text{Aut}(B)$ satisfy Equation (18), and $\sigma \neq \tau$.

Lemma 20. *If $B \simeq \mathbb{H}$ then $\mathbb{H}_{\sigma,\tau}$ is isomorphic to the algebra defined by (13).*

Proof. From the assumptions follows that $\mathbb{H}_{\sigma,\tau} \simeq \text{triv} \oplus \text{sign} \oplus \text{nat}$ as a D_6 -module. Let $u \in N_{\sigma,\tau} \cap \ker(\sigma - \mathbb{I}_{\mathbb{H}})$ and $v \in N_{\sigma,\tau} \cap \ker(\sigma + \mathbb{I}_{\mathbb{H}})$. Then $\sigma(u) = u$ and $\sigma(v) = -v$, while $\tau(u) = cv + sv$, $\tau(v) = -cv + su$. Hence there exists an automorphism φ of \mathbb{H} such that $\varphi\sigma\varphi^{-1} \cdot (i, j) = (i, -j)$ and $\varphi\tau\varphi^{-1} \cdot (i, j) = (ci + sj, si - cj)$, that is, $\mathbb{H}_{\sigma,\tau}$ is isomorphic to the algebra given by (13). \square

Lemma 21. *If $B \simeq \mathbb{O}$ and the D_6 -module $B_{\sigma,\tau}$ decomposes as $\text{triv} \oplus \text{sign} \oplus 3 \text{ nat}$ then $B_{\sigma,\tau}$ is isomorphic to the algebra given by (17).*

Proof. Let $X = N_{\sigma,\tau} \cap \ker(\sigma - \mathbb{I}_{\mathbb{O}})$. For all $x \in X$ we have $\sigma(x) = x$ and $\tau(x) = cx + sy_x$ for some $y_x \in N_{\sigma,\tau} \cap \ker(\sigma + \mathbb{I}_{\mathbb{O}})$, and from Lemma 18 follows that $xy_x \in S_{\sigma,\tau}$. Now $x \mapsto xy_x$ defines a continuous map from the unit sphere of X to the unit sphere of $S_{\sigma,\tau}$, and since $\dim S_{\sigma,\tau} = 1$, this map is constant. Take $z = -xy_x$, where $x \in X$ is any unit vector. Then $xz = x(-xy_x) = y_x$, hence $\tau(x) = cx + sxz$.

Let u, v be an orthonormal pair in X , then (u, v, z) is a Cayley triple satisfying $\sigma \cdot (u, v, z) = (u, v, -z)$ and $\tau \cdot (u, v, z) = (cu + suz, cv + svz, -z)$. This concludes the proof of the lemma. \square

Lemma 22. *If $B \simeq \mathbb{O}$ and $B_{\sigma,\tau} \simeq 2 \text{ triv} \oplus 2 \text{ sign} \oplus 2 \text{ nat}$ as a D_6 -module, then the algebra $B_{\sigma,\tau}$ is isomorphic to the algebra given by (16).*

Proof. Let $z \in N_{\sigma,\tau} \cap \ker(\sigma - \mathbb{I}_{\mathbb{O}})$, $\|z\| = 1$, then $\tau(z) = cz + sy$ for a unit vector $y \in N_{\sigma,\tau} \cap \ker(\sigma + \mathbb{I}_{\mathbb{O}})$. It follows from Lemma 18 that $yz \in S_{\sigma,\tau}$, and setting $u = -yz$ we have $uz = (-yz)z = y$, so $\tau(z) = cz + suz$. Let $v \in S_{\sigma,\tau}$ be a unit vector orthogonal to u . Then uv is in $T_{\sigma,\tau}$ and hence orthogonal to z , so (u, v, z) is a Cayley triple, which satisfies $\sigma \cdot (u, v, z) = (-u, -v, z)$ and $\tau \cdot (u, v, z) = (-u, -v, cz + suz)$. \square

To conclude the proof of Proposition 17, it remains only to show that the module $\mathbb{O}_{\sigma,\tau}$ cannot decompose as $3 \text{ triv} \oplus 3 \text{ sign} \oplus \text{nat}$. Assume $\dim S_{\sigma,\tau} \geq 3$, and let $u, v, z \in S_{\sigma,\tau}$ be orthonormal. Then $uv \in T_{\sigma,\tau}$, so (u, v, z) is a Cayley triple, and $\{1, u, v, uv, z, uz, vz, (uv)z\}$ is a basis of \mathbb{O} , with $u, v, z, (uv)z \in S_{\sigma,\tau}$ and $1, uv, uz, vz \in T_{\sigma,\tau}$, so $N_{\sigma,\tau} = 0$ and thus $\mathbb{O}_{\sigma,\tau} \simeq 4 \text{ triv} \oplus 4 \text{ sign}$ as a D_6 -module.

4. QUASIGROUP IDENTITIES

One basic result in group theory is that for any group G the maps $y \mapsto xyx^{-1}$, $x \in G$ are automorphisms. This result is a consequence of the fact that the associative law $(xy)z = x(yz)$ holds in groups. Since partial classifications of real division algebras with large groups of automorphisms have been obtained [4, 5, 22], any method for translating quasigroup identities to results about the existence of automorphisms on the underlying real division algebra will produce classification results for division algebras. Unfortunately these methods are scarce, so at the present time this approach seems unfruitful. A closer look at some particular varieties of quasigroups makes clear that sometimes it is easy to translate quasigroup identities to results about the existence of *autotopies*, i.e., isotopies from the quasigroup to itself. For instance, the associative law holds in a quasigroup if and only if (R_z, \mathbb{I}, R_z) and (L_x, L_x, \mathbb{I}) are autotopies; the left Moufang identity $x(y(xz)) = ((xy)x)z$ is equivalent to $(L_x, R_x L_x, L_x^{-1})$ being an autotopy, etc. The set of autotopies of an algebra (A, xy) forms a group under componentwise composition, the *autotopy group* of A , denoted by $\text{Atp}(A)$, i.e.,

$$(19) \quad \text{Atp}(A) = \{(\varphi_1, \varphi_2, \varphi_3) \in \text{End}(A)^3 \mid \varphi_1(xy) = \varphi_2(x)\varphi_3(y) \forall x, y \in A\}.$$

The vector space

$$\text{Tder}(A) = \{(d_1, d_2, d_3) \in \text{End}_k(A)^3 \mid d_1(xy) = d_2(x)y + xd_3(y) \forall x, y \in A\}$$

is a Lie algebra with the componentwise commutator of linear maps. The elements of $\text{Tder}(A)$ are called *ternary derivations*. In case that (A, xy) is a real algebra, $\text{Atp}(A)$ is a Lie group and $\text{Tder}(A)$ is the Lie algebra of $\text{Atp}(A)$ at the identity.

Lemma 23. *Let (A, xy) be an algebra over the real numbers, $\epsilon > 0$ and $(-\epsilon, \epsilon) \rightarrow \text{Atp}(A)$ $t \mapsto (\alpha_t, \beta_t, \gamma_t)$ a differentiable curve with $\alpha_0 = \beta_0 = \gamma_0 = \mathbb{I}_{\text{Atp}(A)}$. Then $(\dot{\alpha}_0, \dot{\beta}_0, \dot{\gamma}_0) \in \text{Tder}(A)$.*

Proof. It suffices to compute the derivative of $\alpha_t(xy) = \beta_t(x)\gamma_t(y)$ at $t = 0$. \square

In [19], a construction was given of all real division algebras whose Lie algebra of ternary derivations has a simple subalgebra of toral rank 2. Quasigroup identities in division algebras tend to imply existence of many autotopies, potentially enough for the autotopy group to contain a Lie subgroup of toral rank 2. This leads us to approach real division algebras satisfying quasigroup identities through their autotopy group, seeking to obtain general results about these algebras.

The *left, middle and right associative nuclei* of a k -algebra (A, xy) are

$$\begin{aligned} N_l(A) &= \{a \in A \mid (ay)z = a(yz) \forall y, z \in A\}, \\ N_m(A) &= \{a \in A \mid (xa)z = x(az) \forall x, z \in A\}, \\ N_r(A) &= \{a \in A \mid (xy)a = x(ya) \forall x, y \in A\} \end{aligned}$$

respectively. These nuclei are associative subalgebras of A , so for real division algebras they are isomorphic to either $0, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}$ or \mathbb{H} . If A is an algebra with unit element, then

$$\begin{aligned} \{(d_1, d_2, d_3) \in \text{Tder}(A) \mid d_1 = 0\} &= \{(0, R_a, -L_a) \mid a \in N_m(A)\} \quad \text{and} \\ \{(d_1, d_2, d_3) \in \text{Tder}(A) \mid d_2 = 0\} &= \{(R_a, 0, R_a) \mid a \in N_r(A)\}, \\ \{(d_1, d_2, d_3) \in \text{Tder}(A) \mid d_3 = 0\} &= \{(L_a, L_a, 0) \mid a \in N_l(A)\}. \end{aligned}$$

The maps

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_i: \text{Tder}(A) &\rightarrow \text{End}_k(A) \\ (d_1, d_2, d_3) &\mapsto d_i \end{aligned}$$

provide representations of the Lie algebra $\text{Tder}(A)$ on A . So, depending on the representation π_1, π_2 or π_3 that we choose, A inherits three structures of $\text{Tder}(A)$ -module, which we denote by A_1, A_2 and A_3 respectively. The product on A is a homomorphism

$$A_2 \otimes A_3 \rightarrow A_1$$

of $\text{Tder}(A)$ -modules. The image of $\text{Tder}(A)$ under π_i will be denoted by $\text{Tder}(A)_i$, and $\text{Atp}(A)_i = p_i(\text{Atp}(A))$ for $p_i: \text{Atp}(A) \rightarrow \text{End}_k(A)$, $(\varphi_1, \varphi_2, \varphi_3) \mapsto \varphi_i$.

Proposition 24. *Let (A, xy) be a real division algebra, $e \in A$ a non-zero idempotent and $x*y = (x/e)(e \setminus y)$. Let $f, g \in \text{GL}(A)$ and let $\alpha, \beta, \gamma: U \rightarrow \text{GL}(A)$ $x \mapsto \alpha_x, \beta_x, \gamma_x$ be maps from a neighbourhood U of e in A to $\text{GL}(A)$ that are differentiable at e . Given $S \in \{L, R\}$ and $\epsilon \in \{1, -1\}$:*

- (1) *if $f(S_x^\epsilon g(yz)) = \beta_x(y)\gamma_x(z)$ for all $x \in U$ and $y, z \in A$ then there exists $h \in \text{GL}(A)$ such that $hS_x^*h^{-1} \in \text{Tder}(A, *)_1$ for all $x \in A$;*
- (2) *if $\alpha_x(yz) = f(S_x^\epsilon g(y))\gamma_x(z)$ for all $x \in U$ and $y, z \in A$ then there exists $h \in \text{GL}(A)$ such that $hS_x^*h^{-1} \in \text{Tder}(A, *)_2$ for all $x \in A$;*
- (3) *if $\alpha_x(yz) = \beta_x(y)f(S_x^\epsilon g(z))$ for all $x \in U$ and $y, z \in A$ then there exists $h \in \text{GL}(A)$ such that $hS_x^*h^{-1} \in \text{Tder}(A, *)_3$ for all $x \in A$.*

Proof. We will only prove the case (2) with $S = L$, $\epsilon = -1$, that is, $\alpha_x(yz) = f(L_x^{-1} g(y))\gamma_x(z)$. The proofs of the other statements are similar.

First observe that $(\alpha_x, fL_x^{-1}g, \gamma_x) \in \text{Atp}(A)$ implies that

$$(\alpha_e^{-1}\alpha_x, g^{-1}L_eL_x^{-1}g, \gamma_e^{-1}\gamma_x)$$

also belongs to $\text{Atp}(A)$. The multiplication operator L_x^* is $L_{x/e}L_e^{-1}$ so $g^{-1}L_x^*g = (g^{-1}L_eL_{x/e}^{-1}g)^{-1} \in \text{Atp}(A)_2$ for any x in a certain neighborhood of e . The derivative of the curve $g^{-1}L_{e+ty}^*g$ at $t = 0$ is $g^{-1}L_y^*g$. Thus, for any y in a neighborhood of 0 we have that $g^{-1}L_y^*g \in \text{Tder}(A)_2$. Since $\text{Tder}(A, *)_2 = R_e\text{Tder}(A)_2R_e^{-1}$, the result follows. \square

Since $(A, *)$ is a division algebra, there are no proper non-zero invariant subspaces of A under the action of $\{hS_x^*h^{-1} \mid x \in A\}$ ($S \in \{L, R\}$). Therefore, Proposition 24 establishes that under certain generic hypotheses $\text{Tder}(A, *)_i$ is not too small and it has a rich structure as a Lie algebra. In [19] it was proved that the largest possibilities for $\text{Tder}(A)$ only occur for isotopes of Hurwitz algebras.

Theorem 25. *Let $(A, *)$ be a unital real division algebra. If there exist $h \in \text{GL}(A)$ and $\iota \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ such that $\{hL_x^*h^{-1} \mid x \in A\}$ or $\{hR_x^*h^{-1} \mid x \in A\}$ is contained in $\text{Tder}(A, *)_\iota$ then $(A, *)$ is a Hurwitz algebra.*

Corollary 26. *Under the hypotheses of Proposition 24 the algebra $(A, *)$ with product $x * y = (x/e)(e \setminus y)$ is a Hurwitz algebra. If in addition $(L_e, R_e^{-1}L_eR_e, L_e)$ (resp. $(R_e, R_e, L_e^{-1}R_eL_e)$) belongs to $\text{Atp}(A, xy)$ then L_e (resp. R_e) is an automorphism of $(A, x * y)$.*

A proof of Theorem 25 is given in Section 6. Unfortunately it is quite technical, using most of the results in [19]. It would be desirable to find a more straightforward proof of this result.

5. EXAMPLES

In this section we present several examples illustrating how Corollary 26 can be used to classify real division algebras satisfying certain quasigroup identities. While we can quickly determine whether the algebras of certain varieties are isotopic to Hurwitz algebras, the classification of the isotopy maps is often quite laborious.

5.1. The identity $x(xy)(xz) = (x^2(yx))z$. As a first example we will classify all real division algebras that satisfy the identity $x(xy)(xz) = (x^2(yx))z$, labelled with the number 19 in Table 1. We have chosen this identity since it is one of the most difficult ones in Table 1 to deal with.

Proposition 27. *A real division algebra (A, xy) satisfies the identity*

$$(20) \quad x((xy)(xz)) = (x^2(yx))z$$

if and only if it has involutive inversion.

Proof. Remember that a real division algebra A has involutive inversion if and only if the product xy of A can be expressed as $xy = \sigma(x) * \tau(y)$, where $(A, *)$ is isomorphic to \mathbb{R} , \mathbb{C} , \mathbb{H} or \mathbb{O} , and σ, τ are automorphisms of $(A, *)$ satisfying $\sigma^2 = \mathbb{I}_A = \tau^2$ and $\sigma\tau\sigma = \tau\sigma\tau$.

Assume that A is a real division algebra satisfying Equation (20), and consider the algebra $(A, *)$ with $x * y = (x/e)(e \setminus y)$, where e is a non-zero idempotent of A . Since $x(yz) = (x^2((x \setminus y)x))(x \setminus z)$, Corollary 26 tells us that $(A, *)$ is a Hurwitz algebra. Equation (20) evaluated at $x = y = e$ implies that $L_e^2 = \mathbb{I}_A$. The same equation evaluated at $x = z = e$ gives $L_e R_e L_e^{-1} = R_e^{-1} L_e R_e$ and, by Lemma 14, $R_e^2 = \mathbb{I}_A$. Since $(L_e, L_e R_e L_e^{-1}, L_e^{-1}) \in \text{Atp}(A)$, Corollary 26 implies that $\tau = L_e$ is an automorphism of $(A, *)$. Set $\sigma = R_e$. To conclude the proof of Proposition 27 we need to prove that σ is also an automorphism of $(A, *)$.

Equation (20) is equivalent to

$$\sigma(x) * (\tau\sigma(\sigma(x) * \tau(y)) * (\sigma(x) * \tau(z))) = \sigma(\sigma(\sigma(x) * \tau(x)) * (\tau\sigma(y) * x)) * \tau(z).$$

Using the left Moufang identity on $(A, *)$ and replacing x with $\sigma(x)$, this latter equation is equivalent to

$$(21) \quad x * \tau\sigma(x * \tau(y)) * x = \sigma(\sigma(x * \tau\sigma(x)) * (\tau\sigma(y) * \sigma(x))).$$

Linearizing this equation and evaluating at e gives

$$\begin{aligned} w * \tau\sigma\tau(y) + \tau\sigma(w * \tau(y)) + \tau\sigma\tau(y) * w = \\ \sigma(\sigma(w) * \tau\sigma(y) + \sigma\tau\sigma(w) * \tau\sigma(y) + \tau\sigma(y) * \sigma(w)). \end{aligned}$$

Since $(A, *)$ is a Hurwitz algebra, we have $x * y + y * x = t(x)y + t(y)x - 2(x, y)e$, hence

$$\begin{aligned} t(\tau\sigma\tau(y))w + t(w)\tau\sigma\tau(y) - 2(w, \tau\sigma\tau(y))e + \tau\sigma(w * \tau(y)) = \\ t(\tau\sigma(y))w + t(\sigma(w))\sigma\tau\sigma(y) - 2(\tau\sigma(y), \sigma(w))e + \sigma(\sigma\tau\sigma(w) * \tau\sigma(y)) \end{aligned}$$

which, substituting y for $\tau(y)$ and applying σ to each side gives

$$(22) \quad t(\tau\sigma(y))\sigma(w) + t(w)\sigma\tau\sigma(y) - 2(w, \tau\sigma(y))e + \sigma\tau\sigma(w * y) = \\ t(\tau\sigma\tau(y))\sigma(w) + t(\sigma(w))\tau\sigma\tau(y) - 2(\tau\sigma\tau(y), \sigma(w))e + \sigma\tau\sigma(w) * \tau\sigma\tau(y).$$

If σ is an isometry with respect to $(,)$ then the previous equality implies that $\tau\sigma\tau$ is an automorphism of $(A, *)$ and σ is an automorphism of $(A, *)$ as desired.

The identity (22) with $y = w$ gives, after replacing w with $\sigma(w)$,

$$(23) \quad (2t(\sigma(w)) - t(w) - t(\sigma\tau(w))) \sigma\tau(w) + (t(w) - t(\sigma\tau(w))) w + \\ (2(w, \sigma\tau(w)) + n(\sigma\tau(w)) - 2(\sigma(w), \tau(w)) - n(\sigma(w))) e = 0.$$

If $2t(\sigma(w)) - t(w) - t(\sigma\tau(w)) \neq 0$ then $\sigma\tau(w) \in \mathbb{R}e + \mathbb{R}w$. Since $\sigma\tau(e) = e$, the minimal polynomial of the restriction of $\sigma\tau$ to $\mathbb{R}e + \mathbb{R}w$ is of the form $(x-1)(x-\lambda)^\epsilon$ for some $\epsilon \in \{0, 1\}$ and $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$. This polynomial also divides $x^3 - 1 = (x-1)(x^2 + x + 1)$ because $(\sigma\tau)^3 = \mathbb{I}_A$, so $\epsilon = 0$ and $\sigma\tau(w) = w$ and $\sigma(w) = \tau(w)$. The set $\{w \in A \mid 2t(\sigma(w)) - t(w) - t(\sigma\tau(w)) \neq 0\}$ is either empty or an open dense set in the Zariski topology of A , so $2t(\sigma(w)) - t(w) - t(\sigma\tau(w)) \neq 0$ implies that $\sigma = \tau$. Therefore we may assume that $2t(\sigma(w)) - t(w) - t(\sigma\tau(w)) = 0$ for all $w \in A$. A similar argument with the coefficient of w in (23) shows that $t(w) - t(\sigma\tau(w)) = 0$. In particular $t(\sigma(w)) = t(w)$. With this new information (22) can be written as

$$\tau\sigma\tau(w * y) = \tau\sigma\tau(w) * \tau\sigma\tau(y) + 2(w, \tau\sigma(y))e - 2(\tau\sigma\tau(y), \sigma(w))e$$

which, after substituting w and y for $\tau(w)$ and $\tau(y)$ respectively and applying τ , becomes

$$\sigma(w * y) = \sigma(w) * \sigma(y) + 2(w, \sigma\tau(y))e - 2(\tau\sigma\tau(w), \sigma(y))e.$$

Using this formula, Equation (21) and the middle Moufang identity imply that either $(\sigma\tau(x), \sigma\tau(y)) = (x, y)$ or $x * \tau\sigma(x) \in \mathbb{R}e + \mathbb{R}x$. If $(\sigma\tau(x), \sigma\tau(y)) = (x, y)$ then σ is an isometry and we are done. Otherwise, $\tau\sigma(x) \in \mathbb{R}e + \mathbb{R}x$ for x in a Zariski dense set of A . As above, this implies that $\sigma(x) = \tau(x)$ for x in a dense set. Therefore, $\sigma = \tau$ is an automorphism of $(A, *)$. \square

5.2. Bol-Moufang type identities. A quasigroup identity is of *Bol-Moufang type* if two of its three variables occur once on each side, the third variable occurs twice on each side, the order in which the variables appear on both sides is the same and the only binary operation used is the multiplication. In [24] J. D. Phillips and P. Vojtěchovský proved that there are exactly 26 varieties of quasigroups of Bol-Moufang type and they determined all inclusions between the varieties. In Figure 1 varieties in an upper level connected with varieties in a lower level indicate that the former are included in the latter. The superscript immediately following the abbreviation of the name of the variety \mathcal{A} indicates if:

- (2) every quasigroup in \mathcal{A} is a loop,
- (L) every quasigroup in \mathcal{A} is a left loop, and there is $Q \in \mathcal{A}$ that is not a loop.
- (R) every quasigroup in \mathcal{A} is a right loop, and there is $Q \in \mathcal{A}$ that is not a loop,
- (0) there is $Q_L \in \mathcal{A}$ that is not a left loop, and there is $Q_R \in \mathcal{A}$ that is not a right loop.

For instance, quasigroups in the variety MNQ are loops. Each of the varieties can be defined by a single identity among a set of equivalent identities. In Table 2, one defining identity has been chosen for each variety. The reader will find detailed information in [24].

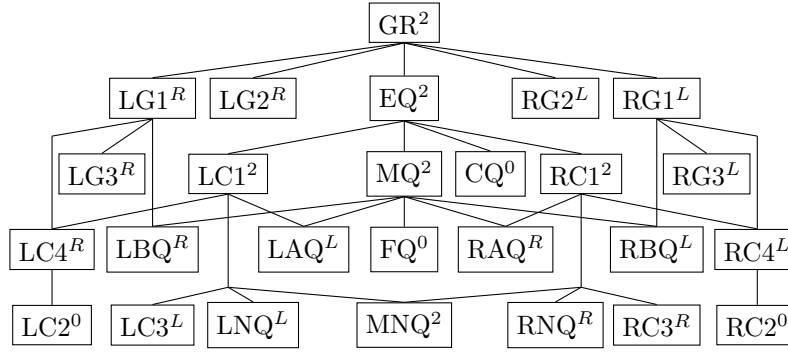


FIGURE 1. Varieties of quasigroups of Bol-Moufang type

TABLE 2. Defining identities.

CQ	$x(y(yz)) = ((xy)y)z$	EQ	$x((yx)z) = (xy)(xz)$	FQ	$(x(yx))z = ((xy)x)z$
GR	$(xy)z = x(yz)$	LAQ	$x(x(yz)) = (xx)(yz)$	LBQ	$x(y(xz)) = (x(yx))z$
LC1	$(xx)(yz) = (x(xy))z$	LC2	$x(x(yz)) = (x(xy))z$	LC3	$x(x(yz)) = ((xx)y)z$
LC4	$x(y(yz)) = (x(yy))z$	LG1	$x(y(zx)) = (x(yz))x$	LG2	$(xy)(zz) = ((x(yz))z$
LG3	$x(y(zy)) = (x(yz))y$	LNQ	$(xx)(yz) = ((xx)y)z$	MNQ	$x((yy)z) = (x(yy))z$
MQ	$x(y(xz)) = ((xy)x)z$	RAQ	$(x(yy))z = ((xy)y)z$	RBQ	$x((yz)y) = ((xy)z)y$
RC1	$x(y(zz)) = (xy)(zz)$	RC2	$x((yz)z) = ((xy)z)z$	RC3	$x(y(zz)) = ((xy)z)z$
RC4	$x((yy)z) = ((xy)y)z$	RG1	$x((xy)z) = ((xx)y)z$	RG2	$x((xy)z) = (xx)(yz)$
RG3	$x((yx)z) = ((xy)x)z$	RNQ	$x(y(zz)) = (xy)(zz)$		

We will say that a division algebra (A, xy) is of a certain type X if the quasigroup $A \setminus \{0\}$ belongs to the variety X. A quick inspection using Corollary 26 shows that real division algebras of type LG1, LG2, EQ, RG2, RG1, LG3, MQ, RG3, LBQ and RBQ are isotopic to Hurwitz algebras. We can strengthen this observation by a deeper analysis of all the varieties. As we will see most of the examples are isotopic to Hurwitz algebras.

Proposition 28. *Any real division algebra of type LC3, LC1, EQ, MNQ, RC3 or RC1 is associative.*

Proof. Since the opposite algebra of any algebra of type RC3 is an algebra of type LC3, it is enough to prove the statement for algebras of type LC3 and MNQ.

If (A, xy) is of type MNQ then A has a two-sided unit element e . Linearizing the identity $x((yy)z) = (x(yy))z$ we obtain that $x((wy + yw)z) = (x(yw + wy))z$. Setting $w = e$ we get the associativity.

Let (A, xy) be of type LC3 and e its left unit element. Linearizing $x(x(yz)) = ((xx)y)z$ we obtain that $x(w(yz)) + w(x(yz)) = ((xw + wx)y)z$. Setting $x = y = e$ we get that $(R_e - \mathbb{I}_A)(R_e + 2\mathbb{I}_A) = 0$. If $R_e \neq \mathbb{I}_A$ then there exists an eigenvector x of R_e with corresponding eigenvalue -2 . The identity $x(x(yz)) = ((xx)y)z$ with $y = z = e$ gives that x^2 is an eigenvector of eigenvalue -2 of R_e^2 . Since the possible eigenvalues of R_e^2 are 1 and 4 we reach a contradiction. This proves that $R_e = \mathbb{I}_A$, so e is a two-sided unit element. Setting $w = e$ in $x(w(yz)) + w(x(yz)) = ((xw + wx)y)z$ we get the associativity. \square

Real division algebras of type LAQ, RAQ or MQ are alternative, so they are isomorphic to $\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{H}$ or \mathbb{O} . Those of type FQ are flexible and they have been classified [3, 8, 10, 11]. The classification of the algebras of type LBQ or RBQ appears in [9].

Proposition 29. *A real division algebra (A, xy) has type LNQ (resp. RNQ) if and only if it is either associative or there exist a product $x \circ y$ on A such that $(A, x \circ y)$ is a quadratic division algebra and $xy = (t(x)e - x) \circ y$ (resp. $xy = x \circ (t(y)e - y)$) with $x \circ x - t(x)x + n(x)e = 0$ the quadratic equation satisfied by $(A, x \circ y)$.*

Proof. Let (A, xy) be of type LNQ and let e be its left unit element. The identity $x^2(yz) = (x^2y)z$ implies that x^2 belongs to $N_l(A)$. Thus, $xe + x$ also belongs to $N_l(A)$. Since $N_l(A)$ is an associative subalgebra and $e \in N_l(A)$ then e is the unit element of $N_l(A)$. It follows that $(xe + x) = (xe + x)e$ so $R_e^2 = \mathbb{I}_A$.

We distinguish two cases. First we assume that $N_l(A) = \mathbb{R}e$. In this case $x^2 = n(x)e$ and $xe + x = t(x)e$ for some quadratic form $n(\cdot)$ and a linear form $t(\cdot)$. Define the new product $x \circ y = (xe)y$. We have that $x \circ x = (xe)x = (t(x)e - x)x = t(x)x - n(x)e$, so $(A, x \circ y)$ is a quadratic division algebra with unit element e and the products $x \circ y$ and xy are related as required.

The second case deals with the possibility $\dim N_l(A) \geq 2$. If $\dim A = 8$ and $\dim N_l(A) = 2$ then the map $A \rightarrow \text{End}_k(N_l(A))$, $x \mapsto (L_x + R_x)|_{N_l(A)}$ is not injective, so there exists $0 \neq x \in A$ that satisfies $ax + xa = 0$ for all $a \in N_l(A)$. Choosing $b \in N_l(A)$ with $b^2 = -x^2$ we obtain that $(b + x)^2 = 0$. Since A is a division algebra, this implies that $x = -b \in N_l(A)$. However, the only element $x \in N_l(A)$ such that $xa + ax = 0$ for all $a \in N_l(A)$ is $x = 0$ (take $a = e$ the unit element), a contradiction. If $\dim A = 8$ and $\dim N_l(A) = 4$ then A is a left $N_l(A)$ -module, the action given by left multiplication. As a module A decomposes as $A = N_l(A) \oplus N_l(A)x$ for some $x \in A$. However, for any $a, b \in N_l(A)$, the element $(ax)b + b(ax) = a(bx + bx) - (ab)x + (ba)x$ belongs to $N_l(A)$ so $ab - ba = 0$, a contradiction. We are left with the case in which $\dim A = 4$ and $\dim N_l(A) = 2$. While an algebraic proof is possible, we prefer a topological approach. We extend the quadratic form on $N_l(A)$ to a definite positive quadratic form $n(\cdot)$ on A . Thus we have the inclusion of spheres $\iota: S^1 = \{x \in N_l(A) \mid n(x) = 1\} \rightarrow S^3 = \{x \in A \mid n(x) = 1\}$. The identity $x^2(yz) = (x^2y)z$ implies the existence of a continuous map $\varphi: S^3 \rightarrow S^1$ given by $x \mapsto x^2/\sqrt{n(x^2)}$. The composition $\varphi \circ \iota$ induces the map $(\varphi \circ \iota)_* = 2\mathbb{I}_{\pi_1(S^1)}$ on the fundamental group $\pi_1(S^1) \cong \mathbb{Z}$ (base point at e). However, $(\varphi \circ \iota)_* = \varphi_* \circ \iota_*$ and $\pi_1(S^3) = 0$, a contradiction. \square

Proposition 30. *Any real division algebra (A, xy) of type LG2 (resp. RG2) is either associative, or there exists a product $x * y$ on A such that $(A, *)$ is isomorphic to the complex numbers, and $xy = x * \bar{y}$ (resp. $xy = \bar{x} * y$), where $x \mapsto \bar{x}$ is the standard involution on $(A, *)$.*

Proof. Although we could easily avoid the use of Corollary 26 in this proof, we will not. First we linearize $(xy)z^2 = (x(yz))z$ to obtain $(xy)(wz + zw) = (x(yw))z + (x(yz))w$. With $w = e$, the right unit element, we get that $(xy)(ez) = x(yz)$. Corollary 26 implies that $xy = x * \sigma(y)$ where $(A, *)$ is a Hurwitz algebra and $\sigma = L_e$ is an automorphism with $\sigma^2 = \mathbb{I}_A$.

The identity $(xy)(ez) = x(yz)$ implies that $(A, *)$ is associative. The identity $(xy)z^2 = (x(yz))z$ implies that $\sigma(z) * z = z * \sigma(z)$ for all $z \in A$. For a non-zero $z \in \text{Im}(A, *)$, the only elements in $\text{Im } A$ that commute with z are the ones in $\mathbb{R}z$. Thus, for any $z \in \text{Im } A$ there exists $\lambda_z \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $\sigma(z) = \lambda_z z$. It follows that σ is either the identity map or $(A, *)$ is isomorphic to the complex numbers and σ is the complex conjugation. \square

Proposition 31. *A real division algebra is of type CQ if and only if it is either associative, or the product is expressible as $xy = \bar{x} * \bar{y}$, where $(A, *)$ is isomorphic to \mathbb{C} .*

Proof. Let (A, xy) be a real division algebra of type CQ. The defining identity $x(y(yz)) = ((xy)y)z$ implies that $L_x L_y L_y = L_{(xy)y}$ and $R_z R_y R_y = R_{y(yz)}$. Substituting $(y/y)/y$ for x in $L_x L_y L_y = L_{(xy)y}$ gives that A has inversion on the left. Substituting $y/(y \setminus y)$ for z in $R_z R_y R_y = R_{y(yz)}$ gives that A has inversion on the right. Thus, the product xy can be expressed as $xy = \tau(x) * \sigma(y)$ for some automorphisms σ, τ of the Hurwitz algebra $(A, *)$ with $\sigma^2 = \tau^2 = \mathbb{I}_A$. The identity $x(y(yz)) = ((xy)y)z$ is now equivalent to

$$(24) \quad x * (\sigma\tau(y) * (\tau(y) * z)) = ((x * \sigma(y)) * \tau\sigma(y)) * z.$$

Linearizing this identity at $y = e$, the unit element of $(A, *)$, gives $x * ((\sigma\tau(y) + \tau(y)) * z) = (x * (\sigma(y) + \tau\sigma(y))) * z$. In case that $\dim A = 8$ this would imply that $\sigma\tau(y) + \tau(y) \in \mathbb{R}e$ for any $y \in A$. Substituting y for $\tau(y)$ we get that the eigenspace of σ corresponding to the eigenvalue -1 has dimension ≥ 7 , a contradiction (the product by an eigenvector of eigenvalue -1 defines a linear isomorphism between the eigenspaces of σ of eigenvalues 1 and -1). Thus $(A, *)$ is associative and (24) is equivalent to $\sigma\tau(y) * \tau(y) = \sigma(y) * \tau\sigma(y)$. This identity implies that $\sigma(y) = y$ if and only if $\tau(y) = y$ so $\sigma = \tau$ and $y * \sigma(y) = \sigma(y) * y$ for any $y \in A$. In particular, $(y + \sigma(y)) * (y - \sigma(y)) = y^{*2} - \sigma(y^{*2}) = 0$ for any $y \in \text{Im } A$. So σ acts as \mathbb{I} or $-\mathbb{I}$ on $\text{Im } A$ and therefore it is either the identity or the standard involution. Since σ is an automorphism this proves that either $\sigma = \mathbb{I}$ or $(A, *)$ is isomorphic to the complex numbers and σ is the conjugation. \square

Proposition 32. *A real division algebra (A, xy) is of type LG3 (resp. RG3) if and only if there exists an associative product $x * y$ on A and either an involutive automorphism or an involution σ of $(A, *)$ such that $xy = x * \sigma(y)$ (resp. $xy = \sigma(x) * y$).*

Proof. Either of the claims follows from the other by taking the opposite algebra. Assume that (A, xy) is of type LG3 and denote by e the right unit element. Linearizing $x(y(z y)) = (x(yz))y$ at $y = e$ we get that $L_x L_e L_z = L_{x(ez)}$. It follows that A with the product $x * y = x(ez)$ is an associative algebra with e as its identity element, and that the square of $\sigma = L_e$ is \mathbb{I}_A . It remains to prove that σ is either an automorphism or an involution of $(A, *)$.

The identity $x(y(z y)) = (x(yz))y$ can be written as

$$L_x^* \sigma L_y^* \sigma R_{\sigma(y)}^* = R_{\sigma(y)}^* L_x^* \sigma L_y^* \sigma,$$

which is equivalent to

$$\sigma L_y^* \sigma R_{\sigma(y)}^* = R_{\sigma(y)}^* \sigma L_y^* \sigma.$$

Evaluating at e we get that $\sigma(y * y) = \sigma(y) * \sigma(y)$. This proves the result in case that $\dim A = 1$ or 2 . So we will assume that $\dim A = 4$, i.e., $\mathbb{H} = (A, *)$. The equality $\sigma(y * y) = \sigma(y) * \sigma(y)$ also implies that σ is an isometry of the multiplicative quadratic form of \mathbb{H} . Since isometries of \mathbb{H} that fix the unit element are automorphisms or anti-automorphisms, the result follows. \square

Proposition 33. *A real division algebra (A, xy) is of type LC2 (resp. RC2) if and only if there exists an associative product $x * y$ on A such that either*

- (1) $xy = x * \sigma(y)$ (resp. $xy = \sigma(x) * y$) for some involutive automorphism σ of $(A, *)$ or
- (2) $(A, x * y) \cong \mathbb{C}$ and $xy = \alpha(x) * \bar{y}$ (resp. $xy = \bar{x} * \alpha(y)$) for some bijective linear map α that fixes the unit element of $(A, *)$ ($x \mapsto \bar{x}$ denotes the complex conjugation).

Proof. Substituting $x \setminus (x \setminus x)$ in $x(x(yz)) = (x(xy))z$ for y we get that A has inversion on the left. Thus, given an idempotent e , the product $x * y = (x/e)(e \setminus y)$ defines an alternative algebra, $\alpha = R_e$ fixes the unit element of $(A, *)$ and $\sigma = L_e$ is an

involutive automorphism of $(A, *)$. The identity $x(x(yz)) = (x(xy))z$ is equivalent to

$$(25) \quad x * (\sigma(x) * (\alpha(y) * z)) = \alpha(x * (\sigma(x) * y)) * z.$$

Setting $y = e$ in (25) we get that $x * (\sigma(x) * z) = (x * \sigma(x)) * z$ and with $z = e$ this means that $\alpha(x * \sigma(x)) = x * \sigma(x)$.

If $\dim A = 8$ then the latter equality implies that $\sigma(x) \in \mathbb{R}x$ for all $x \in \text{Im}(A, *)$. Thus σ is either the identity on A or the standard involution. Since σ is an automorphism we get that $\sigma = \mathbb{I}_A$. From Equation (25) we get that $x * (x * (\alpha(y) * z)) = \alpha(x * (x * y)) * z$. Using the alternative law and evaluating at $z = e$ we get $x^{*2} * \alpha(y) = \alpha(x^{*2} * y)$ and $x^{*2} * (\alpha(y) * z) = (x^{*2} * \alpha(y)) * z$. Since any element of $(A, *)$ can be written as x^{*2} for some adequate x , it follows that $(A, *)$ is associative, which contradicts that $\dim A = 8$. Hence $\dim A \leq 4$.

Now, as $(A, *)$ is associative, (25) is equivalent to $x * \sigma(x) * \alpha(y) = \alpha(x * \sigma(x) * y)$. In case that $\dim A = 4$ then $\sigma(x) = a * x * a^{-1}$ for certain $a \in A$. The set $\{x * \sigma(x) \mid x \in A\}$ equals $\{x * a * x * a \mid x \in A\} * (a^{-1})^{*2} = A * (a^{-1})^{*2} = A$. Hence, $x * \alpha(y) = \alpha(x * y)$ for any $x, y \in A$. Substituting e for y in this latter equation we get that $\alpha = R_{\alpha(e)}^* = R_e^* = \mathbb{I}_A$.

We are left with the case in which $\dim A = 2$. If $\sigma = \mathbb{I}_A$ then we can proceed as before to get that $\alpha = \mathbb{I}_A$. Otherwise σ is the complex conjugation and the statement follows. \square

Proposition 34. *A real division algebra (A, xy) is of type LC4 or LG1 (resp. RC4 or RG1) if and only if there exist an associative product $x * y$ on A and an involutive automorphism σ of $(A, *)$ such that $xy = x * \sigma(y)$ (resp. $xy = \sigma(x) * y$).*

Proof. Since the variety LC4 is contained inside the variety LC2, the multiplication in A can be written according to either (1) or (2) in Proposition 33. Existence of right unity in A excludes the second possibility, and it is easy to check that the product $xy = x * \sigma(y)$ of Proposition 33(1) satisfies the defining identity $x(y(yz)) = (x(yy))z$. \square

5.3. Balanced quasigroup identities. In many cases Corollary 26 can be applied to real division algebras satisfying a balanced quasigroup identity to show that they are isotopes of Hurwitz algebras. However, it turns out that a direct approach produces more precise results in this case. Belousov's theorem about balanced identities of quasigroups also applies here. However Belousov's paper does not completely cover all the cases that we are interested in.

We shall write $p \stackrel{A}{=} q$ to indicate that $p = q$ holds in A , i.e., $p(a_1, \dots, a_n) = q(a_1, \dots, a_n)$ for all $a_1, \dots, a_n \in A$. The *support* of $p(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ is the set $s(p) = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ of variables occurring in p .

Lemma 35. *Let (A, xy) be a division algebra, e a non-zero idempotent in A and $x * y = (x/e)(e \setminus y)$. If there exist $\alpha, \beta \in \text{GL}(A)$ such that $\alpha(e) = \beta(e) = e$ and $xy = \alpha(y)\beta(x)$ for any $x, y \in A$ then $(A, *)$ is commutative.*

Proof. With $x = e$ (resp. $y = e$) we obtain that $\alpha(y) = (ey)/e$ (resp. $\beta(x) = e \setminus (xe)$). Hence $(y/e)(e \setminus x) = (x/e)(e \setminus y)$, i.e., $(A, *)$ is commutative. \square

Proposition 36. *Let (A, xy) be a division algebra with a non-zero idempotent e and $x * y = (x/e)(e \setminus y)$. If (A, xy) satisfies a balanced quasigroup identity then at least one of the following statements holds for all $x, y, z \in A$:*

- (M0) $(A, *)$ is commutative,
- (M1) $(xy)z = \alpha_z(x)\beta(y)$,
- (M2) $(xy)z = \alpha_z(y)\beta(x)$,
- (M3) $(xy)z = \alpha(x)\beta_z(y)$ or
- (M4) $(xy)z = \alpha(y)\beta_z(x)$

for some $\alpha, \beta \in \text{GL}(A)$ and bilinear maps $A \times A \rightarrow \text{GL}(A)$, $(z, x) \mapsto \alpha_z(x), \beta_z(x)$ with $\alpha(e) = \beta(e) = \alpha_e(e) = \beta_e(e) = e$.

Proof. Let $p \stackrel{A}{=} q$ be a balanced quasigroup identity satisfied by A , of minimal degree n . Assume that $(A, *)$ is not commutative; this implies $n \geq 3$. Write $p = p_1 p_2$ and $q = q_1 q_2$, where each p_1, p_2, q_1, q_2 each have degree at least one. Suppose that $s(p_1) = s(q_1)$. Then $s(p_2) = s(q_2)$ and, since A is a division algebra, evaluation at e of the variables in $s(p_2)$ gives $p_1 \stackrel{A}{=} q_1$. Similarly, $p_2 \stackrel{A}{=} q_2$. At least one of the identities $p_1 = q_1$ and $p_2 = q_2$ is non-trivial, which contradicts the minimality of the degree n of p and q .

Suppose instead that $s(p_1) \subseteq s(q_2)$. Choose variables $x \in s(p_1) \subseteq s(q_2)$ and $y \in s(q_1) \subseteq s(p_2)$. Now there exist maps $\alpha, \beta \in \text{GL}(A)$ with $\alpha(e) = e = \beta(e)$ (obtained by evaluating each $z \in s(p) \setminus \{x, y\}$ at e in $p(x_1, \dots, x_n) = q(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ and rewriting the expression) such that $xy = \alpha(y)\beta(x)$ for any $x, y \in A$. Lemma 35 implies that (M0) holds in this case. Therefore, after possibly interchanging the roles of p and q , we may assume that $s(p_1) \not\subseteq s(q_1)$ and $s(p_1) \not\subseteq s(q_2)$. In particular the cardinality of $s(p_1)$ is at least 2. Writing $p_1 = p_{11}p_{12}$, we have

$$(26) \quad (p_{11}p_{12})p_2 \stackrel{A}{=} q_1 q_2.$$

Our assumption about $s(p_1)$ implies that there is one variable x in $s(p_{11})$ and another variable y in $s(p_{12})$ such that one of them belongs to $s(q_1)$ and the other belongs to $s(q_2)$. We select x, y and a third variable $z \in s(p_2)$. Evaluation of all variables different from x, y and z at e in (26) now easily leads to one of the cases (M1), (M2), (M3) and (M4), depending on the identity $p = q$. \square

We will say that a division algebra A with a non-zero idempotent e is of *type* M1, M2, M3 or M4 in case that A satisfies the corresponding statement in the previous proposition.

Remark 37. Observe that division algebras satisfying a quasigroup identity where at least three of the variables appear with degree one might also be of one of the types M1, M2, M3 or M4. For instance, the identity $(x(wy))(zw) = (xw)((yz)w)$ can be written as $(xy)z = (xw)((w \setminus y)(z/w))w$. With $w = e$ we obtain that any division algebra satisfying this identity and having a non-zero idempotent e is of type M3.

Proposition 38. *Let (A, xy) be a division algebra, e a non-zero idempotent in A and $x * y = (x/e)(e \setminus y)$:*

- (1) *If A is of type M1 or M2 then $(A, *)$ is commutative.*
- (2) *If A is of type M3 then $(A, *)$ is associative and R_e is an automorphism of $(A, *)$.*
- (3) *If A is of type M4 then $(A, *)$ is associative and R_e is an anti-automorphism of $(A, *)$.*

Proof. If A is of type M1 then $(xy)z = \alpha_z(x)\beta(y)$. With $x = e$ we obtain that $yz = \alpha_z(e)\beta(e \setminus y) = \alpha'(z)\beta'(y)$ for some $\alpha', \beta' \in \text{GL}(A)$ with $\alpha'(e) = e = \beta'(e)$. By Lemma 35 this implies commutativity of $(A, *)$. If A is of type M2 then $(xy)z = \alpha_z(y)\beta(x)$ which, with $y = e$, implies that $xz = \alpha_z(e)\beta(x/e)$, which also leads to $(A, *)$ being commutative.

Observe that

$$\text{Atp}(A, *) = \{(\varphi_1, R_e \varphi_2 R_e^{-1}, L_e \varphi_3 L_e^{-1}) \mid (\varphi_1, \varphi_2, \varphi_3) \in \text{Atp}(A)\}.$$

If A is of type M3 or M4 then $(R_z R_e^{-1}, \mathbb{I}_A, \beta_z \beta_e^{-1}) \in \text{Atp}(A)$ for all $z \in A$, implying that $(R_z R_e^{-1}, \mathbb{I}_A, L_e \beta_z \beta_e^{-1} L_e^{-1}) \in \text{Atp}(A, *)$. Since e is the unit element of $(A, *)$ and $R_z R_e^{-1} = R_{ez}^*$, the condition of autotopy implies that $L_e \beta_z \beta_e^{-1} L_e^{-1} = R_z R_e^{-1}$,

so ez belongs to the right associative nucleus of $(A, *)$ for all z . Hence $(A, *)$ is associative.

Let us now prove the assertions about R_e . If A is of type M3 then $(xy)z = \alpha(x)\beta_z(y)$. With $x = e$ we obtain that $\beta_z(y) = e \setminus ((ey)z)$. With $y = z = e$ we get $\alpha(x) = xe$, so $(xy)z = (xe)(e \setminus ((ey)z))$. In particular, $((x/e)(e \setminus y))z = x(e \setminus (yz))$. Inserting $z = e$ into this identity gives $(x * y)e = (xe) * (ye)$, i.e., R_e is an automorphism of $(A, *)$. If A is of type M4 then $(xy)z = \alpha(y)\beta_z(x)$. With $y = e$ we obtain $\beta_z(x) = e \setminus ((xe)z)$. The same formula with $x = z = e$ gives $\alpha(y) = ey$. Thus, $(xy)z = (ey)(e \setminus ((xe)z))$. With $z = e$ we finally obtain that $R_e(x * y) = ((x/e)(e \setminus y))e = y(e \setminus (xe)) = R_e(y) * R_e(x)$, that is, R_e is an anti-automorphism of $(A, *)$. \square

Remark 39. If A is a division algebra with a non-zero idempotent e , satisfying a non-trivial balanced quasigroup identity, then the opposite algebra A^{op} also satisfies a non-trivial balanced quasigroup identity, and e is an idempotent of A^{op} . Hence Proposition 38 applied to the opposite algebra may provide additional information about L_e .

Combining Proposition 36 and 38, we obtain the following result on real division algebras satisfying balanced quasigroup identities.

Theorem 40. *Let (A, xy) be a real division algebra. If (A, xy) satisfies a non-trivial balanced quasigroup identity then (A, xy) is isotopic to \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C} or \mathbb{H} . In the latter case, the product xy on A can be obtained from the product $x * y$ of \mathbb{H} by $xy = \sigma(x) * \tau(y)$ with each of σ and τ being either an automorphism or an anti-automorphism of \mathbb{H} .*

Example 41. Let (A, xy) be a real division algebra that satisfies the identity

$$(27) \quad ((x_1 x_2) x_3) x_4 = x_3 ((x_2 x_1) x_4).$$

We can briefly explore the structure of this algebra as follows. (A, xy) is of type M4 so $(A, *)$ is associative and R_e is an anti-automorphism of $(A, *)$ where $x * y = (x/e)(e \setminus y)$ and e is a non-zero idempotent of (A, xy) . The opposite algebra $(A, xy)^{\text{op}}$ is of type M3, so L_e is an automorphism of $(A, *)$. The product on A is recovered as $xy = \sigma(\bar{x}) * \tau(y)$ for certain automorphisms σ, τ of $(A, *)$, where $x \mapsto \bar{x}$ denotes the standard involution of the Hurwitz algebra $(A, *)$.

The identity satisfied by (A, xy) can be written as $\sigma\tau(\bar{x}_3) * \sigma^3(\bar{x}_1) * \sigma^2\tau(x_2) * \tau(x_4) = \sigma(\bar{x}_3) * \tau\sigma\tau(\bar{x}_1) * \tau\sigma^2(x_2) * \tau^2(x_4)$. This is equivalent to $\tau = \mathbb{I}_A$ and $\sigma^2 = \mathbb{I}_A$. In the four-dimensional case, there exists a unique conjugacy class in $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{H})$ of automorphisms of order two, represented by the map σ'_0 sending \mathbf{i} and \mathbf{j} to $-\mathbf{i}$ and $-\mathbf{j}$ respectively while fixing 1 and $\mathbf{k} = \mathbf{i}\mathbf{j}$. Now $\sigma_0 = \sigma'_0\kappa$ is the reflection in the hyperplane $\text{span}\{1, \mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}\}$.

Hence, to summarize, there exist precisely five isomorphism classes of real division algebras satisfying the identity (27), represented by the following algebras:

$$\mathbb{R}, \quad \mathbb{C}, \quad \mathbb{C}_{\kappa, \mathbb{I}_{\mathbb{C}}}, \quad \mathbb{H}, \quad \mathbb{H}_{\sigma, \mathbb{I}_{\mathbb{H}}}.$$

Example 42. We define the nonassociative words

$$\begin{aligned} p_1(x_1, x_2) &= x_1 x_2 \\ p_n(x_1, \dots, x_{2^n}) &= p_{n-1}(x_1, \dots, x_{2^{n-1}}) p_{n-1}(x_{2^{n-1}+1}, \dots, x_{2^n}) \quad (n \geq 2) \end{aligned}$$

and study division algebras that for some $n \geq 1$ satisfy the identity

$$(28) \quad y p_n(x_1, \dots, x_{2^n}) = p_n(y, x_1, \dots, x_{2^n-1}) x_{2^n}$$

and posses non-zero idempotents. Examples of the identities under consideration are

$$\begin{aligned} (n=1) \quad & y(x_1x_2) = (yx_1)x_2, \\ (n=2) \quad & y((x_1x_2)(x_3x_4)) = ((yx_1)(x_2x_3))x_4, \\ (n=3) \quad & y(((x_1x_2)(x_3x_4))((x_5x_6)(x_7x_8))) = (((yx_1)(x_2x_3))((x_4x_5)(x_6x_7)))x_8. \end{aligned}$$

Let (A, xy) be such a division algebra. Notice that A^{op} also satisfies the same identity as A . Since A and A^{op} are of type M3, the algebra $(A, *)$ is associative, $\sigma = R_e$ and $\tau = L_e$ are automorphisms of $(A, *)$ and $xy = \sigma(x) * \tau(y)$. Evaluating (28) at $x_1 = x_2 = \dots = x_{2^n} = e$ we obtain that $ye = R_e^{n+1}(y)$ so $\sigma^n = R_e^n = \mathbb{I}_A$, and by considering A^{op} instead of A we get $\tau^n = L_e^n = \mathbb{I}_A$. With $y = e = x_1 = x_3 = \dots = x_{2^n}$ the identity (28) gives

$$\begin{aligned} e((ex_2)/e) &= ep_n(e, x_2, e, \dots, e) = p_n(e, e, x_2, e, \dots, e)e \\ &= (e(x_2e))/e \end{aligned}$$

so $L_e R_e^{-1} L_e = R_e^{-1} L_e R_e$, i.e., $L_e R_e L_e^{-1} = R_e L_e R_e^{-1}$. The subgroup generated by σ and τ in the group of automorphisms of $(A, *)$ is a quotient of the group

$$\langle g, h \mid g^n = 1, h^n = 1, ghg^{-1} = hgh^{-1} \rangle.$$

With $u = h$ and $v = h^{-1}g$ we obtain the presentation

$$\langle u, v \mid u^n = 1, v^{2^n-1} = 1, u^{-1}vu = v^2 \rangle,$$

a semidirect product $C_{2^n-1} \rtimes_{\varphi} C_n$ of two cyclic groups $C_{2^n-1} = \langle v \rangle$, $C_n = \langle u \rangle$ of orders $2^n - 1$ and n respectively and $\varphi: C_n \rightarrow \text{Aut}(C_{2^n-1})$ the homomorphism of groups determined by $\varphi(u): v \mapsto v^2$. In particular, the subgroup of $\text{Aut}(A, *)$ generated by σ and τ is finite.

Proposition 43. *A real division algebra (A, xy) satisfies the identity (28) for $n \geq 1$ if and only there exists an associative product $x * y$ on A such that $xy = \sigma(x) * \tau(y)$ with $\sigma, \tau \in \text{Aut}(A, x * y)$ and either*

- (1) $\sigma = \tau$ and $\sigma^n = \mathbb{I}_A$, or
- (2) n is even, and (A, xy) has involutive inversion.

In particular, an algebra with involutive inversion satisfies (28) for any even n .

Proof. Assume that (A, xy) is a real division algebra that satisfies (28) for some $n \geq 1$ and let e be a nonzero idempotent. We know that $xy = \sigma(x) * \tau(y)$ with $(A, x * y)$ an associative algebra, $\sigma = R_e$, $\tau = L_e$, $\tau^n = \sigma^n = \mathbb{I}_A$ and $\sigma\tau\sigma^{-1} = \tau\sigma\tau^{-1}$.

If $n = 1$ or $\dim A = 1$ then A is associative, and there is nothing to prove. If $\dim A = 2$ then $(A, x * y) \cong \mathbb{C}$. In this case the only nontrivial automorphism of $(A, x * y)$ has order two, so either n is odd and $\sigma = \tau = \mathbb{I}_A$ or n is even and we have to include the possibility $x * y = \bar{x} * \bar{y}$ where $x \mapsto \bar{x}$ denotes the complex conjugation. In both cases the proposition holds.

It remains to consider the case $(A, x * y) \cong \mathbb{H}$. We know that $\sigma^n = \tau^n = \mathbb{I}_A$, so if $\sigma = \tau$ then 1 holds. So, we may assume that $\sigma \neq \tau$. By the Skolem-Noether Theorem, $\sigma: x \mapsto a * x * a^{-1}$ and $\tau: x \mapsto b * x * b^{-1}$ for certain $a, b \in A$ with $a^{*n} = \pm e$, $b^{*n} = \pm e$ and $a * b * a^{-1} = \pm b * a * b^{-1}$. Possibly replacing a by $-a$ we may assume that $a * b * a^{-1} = b * a * b^{-1}$ also, $a^{*2n} = e$, $b^{*2n} = e$. The elements $c = b$, $d = b^{-1} * a$ satisfy $c^{*2n} = e$, $d^{*2^{2n}-1} = e$ and $c^{-1} * d * c = d^{*2}$. Lemma 10 in [16] shows that: i) $c * d = d * c$ or ii) $d^{-1} * c = c * d$. In case i) $d = e = 1_A$, hence $a = b$ and $\sigma = \tau$, a contradiction. In case ii) we get $d^{*2} = c^{-1} * d * c = d^{-1}$, implying $d^{*3} = e$ and thus $c^{-1} * d * c = d^{-1}$. In particular $c^{*2} * d = d * c^{*2}$. We may assume that $c * d \neq d * c$ (otherwise $d = e$ and $\sigma = \tau$), meaning that e, c, d are linearly independent. Therefore, $c^{*2} * d = d * c^{*2}$ implies $b^{*2} \in \mathbb{R}e$, i.e., $\tau^2 = \mathbb{I}_A$. Now, squaring each side of the equation $\sigma\tau\sigma^{-1} = \tau\sigma\tau^{-1}$ gives $\sigma^2 = \mathbb{I}_A$, and hence

$\sigma\tau\sigma = \tau\sigma\tau$, i.e., (A, xy) has involutive inversion. In case that n is odd it follows that $\sigma = \tau = \mathbb{I}_A$, a contradiction.

Conversely, assume that $(A, x*y)$ is associative, $\sigma, \tau \in \text{Aut}(A, x*y)$ satisfy (1) or (2) in the statement and let us consider the product $xy = \sigma(x) * \tau(y)$. In terms of the product $*$, we have $p_n(x_1, \dots, x_{2^n}) = \alpha_1(x_1) * \dots * \alpha_{2^n}(x_{2^n})$ where $\alpha_m = \sigma^{1-b_{n-1}}\tau^{b_{n-1}} \dots \sigma^{1-b_0}\tau^{b_0}$, $m \in \{1, \dots, 2^n\}$ and $b_n b_{n-1} \dots b_1 b_0$ being the binary expansion of $m-1$, i.e., $m-1 = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} b_i 2^i$. Equation (28) is satisfied if and only if $\sigma^{n+1} = \sigma$, $\tau^{n+1} = \tau$ and $\tau\alpha_m = \sigma\alpha_{m+1}$ for all $m \in \{1, \dots, 2^n-1\}$. With $m = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} c_i 2^i$, the last identity is equivalent to

$$(29) \quad \tau\sigma^{1-b_{n-1}}\tau^{b_{n-1}} \dots \sigma^{1-b_0}\tau^{b_0} = \sigma\sigma^{1-c_{n-1}}\tau^{c_{n-1}} \dots \sigma^{1-c_0}\tau^{c_0}.$$

For $\sigma = \tau$, Equation (29) reduces to $\sigma^{n+1} = \sigma^{n+1}$ for all m , so (28) is satisfied if and only if $\sigma^n = \mathbb{I}_A$. Thus, it remains to consider the case with n even and (A, xy) having involutive inversion, and we may assume that $\sigma \neq \tau$. By Proposition 15, the identity (28) holds for $n=2$, so assume $n > 2$.

As $\sigma^2 = \tau^2 = \mathbb{I}_A$ and n is even, $\sigma^n = \tau^n = \mathbb{I}_A$. We need to show that (29) holds for all $m \in \{1, \dots, 2^{n-1}-1\}$. If m is odd then $b_0 = 0$, $c_0 = 1$, while $b_i = c_i$ for all $i \geq 1$. The automorphism $\sigma^{1-b_{n-1}}\tau^{b_{n-1}} \dots \sigma^{1-b_1}\tau^{b_1}$ involves an odd number of occurrences of τ, σ so it must be either σ, τ or $\sigma\tau\sigma$. Checking all these three cases we get that (29) holds if m is odd. Let us assume that m is even, so $b_0 = 1$ and $c_0 = 0$. If $b_1 = 0$ then $c_1 = 1$ and $b_2 = c_2, \dots, b_{n-1} = c_{n-1}$. The automorphism $\sigma^{1-b_{n-1}}\tau^{b_{n-1}} \dots \sigma^{1-b_2}\tau^{b_2}$ involves an even number of occurrences of σ, τ so it must be either $\mathbb{I}_A, \sigma\tau$ or $\tau\sigma$. Again we can check all these three possibilities to obtain that (29) holds. We are left with the case of $b_0 = b_1 = 1$. Here, $c_0 = c_1 = 0$ and (29) becomes

$$\tau\sigma^{1-b_{n-1}}\tau^{b_{n-1}} \dots \sigma^{1-b_2}\tau^{b_2} = \sigma\sigma^{1-c_{n-1}}\tau^{c_{n-1}} \dots \sigma^{1-c_2}\tau^{c_2}$$

which holds by induction on n . \square

6. PROOF OF THEOREM 25

Recall the statement of Theorem 25:

*Let $(A, *)$ be a unital real division algebra. If there exist $h \in \text{GL}(A)$ and $\iota \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ such that $\{h L_x^* h^{-1} \mid x \in A\}$ or $\{h R_x^* h^{-1} \mid x \in A\}$ is contained in $\text{Tder}(A, *)_\iota$ then $(A, *)$ is a Hurwitz algebra.*

Using A^{op} instead of A it is clear that we only have to consider the case $\{h L_x^* h^{-1} \mid x \in A\} \subseteq \text{Tder}(A, *)_\iota$. This condition implies that A is irreducible under the action of $\text{Tder}(A, *)_\iota$.

*Since we will mainly deal with the product $x * y$, to avoid annoying notation, we will simply write xy instead of $x * y$, while e remains the unit element.*

For any real division algebra A the Lie algebra $\text{Tder}(A)$ decomposes as $\text{Tder}(A) = \mathcal{S} \oplus \mathcal{Z}$ with \mathcal{S} a compact Lie algebra and \mathcal{Z} the center [19].

As before, we use the notation $\text{Tder}(A)_i = \pi_i(\text{Tder}(A))$, similarly $\mathcal{S}_i = \pi_i(\mathcal{S})$ and $\mathcal{Z}_i = \pi_i(\mathcal{Z})$. We write $\text{C}(X) = \{\gamma \in \text{End}_{\mathbb{R}}(A) \mid [\gamma, d] = 0 \forall d \in X\}$ for the centralizer in $\text{End}_{\mathbb{R}}(A)$ of any subset $X \subseteq \text{End}_{\mathbb{R}}(A)$.

Lemma 44 ([19, Proposition 1 and Corollary 2]). *For any real division algebra A and any $i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ we have that*

- (1) $\text{Tder}(A)_i = \mathcal{S}_i \oplus \mathcal{Z}_i$,
- (2) \mathcal{S}_i is semisimple,
- (3) \mathcal{Z}_i is the center of $\text{Tder}(A)_i$ and
- (4) \mathcal{Z}_i consists of semisimple maps.

Lemma 45. *Let A be a real division algebra. If $\dim A \geq 4$ then $\dim\{L_a \mid [L_a, L_x] = 0 \forall x \in A\} \leq 1$.*

Proof. Let us assume that $\dim(L_A \cap C(L_A)) \geq 2$. Given $a \in A \setminus \{0\}$ with $L_a \in L_A \cap C(L_A)$ we define $x * y = (x/a)(a \setminus y)$. The new algebra $(A, *)$ is a unital division algebra with left multiplication operators $L_x^* = L_{x/a} L_a^{-1}$ and $\dim\{L_x^* \mid [L_x^*, L_y^*] = 0 \forall y \in A\} \geq 2$. Therefore, without loss of generality we may assume that A is unital.

Let $L_a \in L_A \cap C(L_A)$ with $L_a \notin \mathbb{R}I_A$ and $C = \mathbb{R}I_A \oplus \mathbb{R}L_a$. Since by Schur's Lemma $C(L_A)$ is a division algebra, $C(L_A) \cong \mathbb{C}$ or \mathbb{H} . The set C is in fact a subalgebra, isomorphic to the complex numbers, of the quadratic algebra $C(L_A)$, A is a left C -vector space and the maps in L_A are C -linear.

Given $x \in A$, let $\alpha I_A + \beta L_a$ be an eigenvalue of L_x in C and v a corresponding non-zero eigenvector. We have that $xv = (\alpha I_A + \beta L_a)v = (\alpha e + \beta a)v$. Since A is a division algebra we can conclude that $x \in \mathbb{R}e \oplus \mathbb{R}a$ so $\dim A \leq 2$, a contradiction. \square

In what follows, A is an algebra that satisfies the hypotheses of Theorem 25 as established at the beginning of this section. The value of ι and the linear map h are fixed.

For any vector space X over \mathbb{R} , ${}_{\mathbb{C}}X$ will denote the complex vector space $\mathbb{C} \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} X$. Recall [5] that in any dimension $\equiv 0, 1, 2 \pmod{4}$ there exists precisely one isomorphism class of irreducible $\mathfrak{su}(2)$ -modules. That of dimension $2m+1$, $W(2m)$, is absolutely irreducible and ${}_{\mathbb{C}}W(2m) \cong V(2m)$. The one $V(2n-1)$ in dimension $4n$ – the complex $\mathfrak{sl}(2, \mathbb{C})$ -module $V(2n-1)$ seen as a real $\mathfrak{su}(2)$ -module – satisfies ${}_{\mathbb{C}}V(2n-1) \cong V(2n-1) \oplus V(2n-1)$, so $\text{End}_{\mathfrak{su}(2)}(V(2n-1)) \cong \mathbb{H}$.

Lemma 46. *For any non-zero ideal $I \trianglelefteq \text{Tder}(A)_{\iota}$ the I -module A has only one isotypic component.*

Proof. Since $\text{Tder}(A)_{\iota}$ is reductive, any isotypic component of A is stable under the action of $\text{Tder}(A)_{\iota}$, so it must be the whole A . \square

Lemma 47. *If $\dim A \geq 4$ then $\dim \mathcal{S}_{\iota} \geq \dim A - 1$. In particular, $\text{Tder}(A)$ is not abelian.*

Proof. Let π denote the restriction of the projection $\mathcal{S}_{\iota} \oplus \mathcal{Z}_{\iota} \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_{\iota}$ to $h L_A h^{-1}$. The elements in the kernel of π are of the form $h L_a h^{-1}$ with $[h L_a h^{-1}, h L_x h^{-1}] = 0$ for any $x \in A$. By Lemma 45 we obtain that $\dim(\ker \pi) \leq 1$ and $\dim \mathcal{S}_{\iota} \geq \dim(h L_A h^{-1}) - \dim(\ker \pi) \geq \dim A - 1$. \square

Lemma 48. *We have that*

$$C(\text{Tder}(A)_{\iota}) \subseteq \{h R_a h^{-1} \mid a \in N_r(A)\}.$$

Proof. Clearly $C(\text{Tder}(A)_{\iota}) \subseteq h\{\gamma \in \text{End}_{\mathbb{R}}(A) \mid [\gamma, L_x] = 0 \forall x \in A\}h^{-1}$. The existence of unit element in A easily implies that any γ that commutes with all the maps in L_A must be of the form R_a with $a \in N_r(A)$. \square

In case that $\dim A = 1, 2$ the existence of unit element implies that A is a Hurwitz algebra, so we may assume that $\dim A \geq 4$.

Proposition 49. *If $\dim A = 4$ then A is isomorphic to the quaternions.*

Proof. By [19, comment after Theorem 10] either A is isotopic to \mathbb{H} , and therefore it is isomorphic to \mathbb{H} [1, Theorem 12], or $\mathcal{S} \cong \mathfrak{su}(2)$ and $\dim \text{Tder}(A) = \dim \mathcal{S} + 2$. In the latter case $\dim \text{Tder}(A)_{\iota} = 4$ so $\text{Tder}(A)_{\iota} = h L_A h^{-1}$. In particular, L_A is a Lie algebra isomorphic to $\mathfrak{su}(2)$. Since the action of L_A on A is faithful, $A \cong V(1)$, the unique (up to isomorphism) irreducible $\mathfrak{su}(2)$ -module of dimension four. This proves that $\{R_a \mid a \in N_r(A)\} = \text{End}_{L_A}(A) \cong \text{End}_{\mathfrak{su}(2)}(V(1)) \cong \mathbb{H}$. Therefore, $A = N_r(A) \cong \mathbb{H}$. \square

In the following we will assume that $\dim A = 8$. If A is not isomorphic to the octonions \mathbb{O} then, by [19, p. 2206], the simple ideals that can occur in the decomposition of \mathcal{S} as a direct sum of simple ideals are Lie algebras of the types

$$G_2, \quad \mathfrak{su}(3), \quad B_2, \quad \text{and} \quad \mathfrak{su}(2).$$

Observe that the kernels of the projections π_1, π_2 and π_3 have dimensions ≤ 4 , since they are isomorphic to $N_m(A), N_r(A)$ and $N_l(A)$ respectively. All restrictions of these projections to ideals of type $G_2, \mathfrak{su}(3)$ or B_2 are therefore injective.

Lemma 50. *The Lie algebra $\text{Tder}(A)$ does not contain ideals isomorphic to compact Lie algebras of type G_2 or $\mathfrak{su}(3)$.*

Proof. Assume, on the contrary, that $\text{Tder}(A)$ contains an ideal isomorphic to a Lie algebra of type G_2 . The projection of that ideal is an ideal I_ℓ of \mathcal{S}_ℓ of type G_2 . Thus A is an I_ℓ -module isomorphic to the direct sum of two non-isomorphic modules (a trivial one-dimensional module and an absolutely irreducible seven-dimensional one), which is impossible by Lemma 46.

If $\text{Tder}(A)$ contains an ideal isomorphic to a Lie algebra of type $\mathfrak{su}(3)$ then \mathcal{S}_ℓ contains an ideal I_ℓ isomorphic to $\mathfrak{su}(3)$. Lemma 46 implies that A is an absolutely irreducible eight-dimensional module of I_ℓ . Thus, $\text{Tder}(A)_\ell = I_\ell \oplus \mathbb{R}\mathbb{I}_A$ and $\dim h L_A h^{-1} \cap I_\ell = 7$. However, after extending scalars ${}_C A$ is isomorphic to the adjoint module of ${}_C I_\ell \cong \mathfrak{sl}(3, \mathbb{C})$, so the kernel of any map in I_ℓ should be non-zero, which is not the case for non-zero maps in $h L_A h^{-1}$, a contradiction. \square

Lemma 51. *If $\text{Tder}(A)$ does not contain an ideal isomorphic to a compact Lie algebra of type B_2 , then A is isomorphic to the octonions.*

Proof. The hypothesis implies that \mathcal{S}_i decomposes as a direct sum of ideals isomorphic to $\mathfrak{su}(2)$. Since $\dim \mathcal{S}_i \geq 7$ and \mathcal{S}_i cannot contain a direct sum of four ideals isomorphic to $\mathfrak{su}(2)$ [19, p. 2205], it follows that $\mathcal{S}_\ell = I^{(1)} \oplus I^{(2)} \oplus I^{(3)}$ with $I^{(i)} \cong \mathfrak{su}(2)$, $i = 1, 2, 3$. By Lemma 46, A must be either irreducible or a direct sum of two irreducible $I^{(1)}$ -modules isomorphic to $V(1)$. In the first case, $I^{(2)} \oplus I^{(3)} \subseteq C(I^{(1)}) \cong \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}, \mathbb{H}$ gives a contradiction. Therefore, $A \cong V(1) \oplus V(1)$ as an $I^{(i)}$ -module ($i = 1, 2, 3$). This proves that ${}_C A \cong V(1) \otimes V(1) \otimes V(1)$ as a ${}_C \mathcal{S}_\ell$ -module. In particular A is an absolutely irreducible \mathcal{S}_ℓ -module, $\mathcal{Z}_\ell = \mathbb{R}\mathbb{I}_A$ and $\dim \mathcal{S}_\ell \cap h L_A h^{-1} = 7$. By dimension counting $h L_A h^{-1} \cap I^{(i)} \neq 0$ for $i = 1, 2, 3$.

Choose non-zero elements $a_1, a_2 \in A$ such that $h L_{a_i} h^{-1} \in h L_A h^{-1} \cap I^{(i)}$. Since $I^{(1)} \subseteq C(I^{(2)} \oplus I^{(3)}) \cong \mathbb{H}$, L_{a_1} generates a subalgebra $C = \mathbb{R}\mathbb{I}_A \oplus \mathbb{R}L_{a_1}$ that is isomorphic to \mathbb{C} , and L_{a_2} is C -linear. Let $\alpha \mathbb{I}_A + \beta L_{a_1} \in C$ be an eigenvalue of L_{a_2} , and $v \in A$ a corresponding eigenvector. Now $a_2 v = (\alpha e + \beta a_1)v$, but this implies that $a_2 = \alpha e + \beta a_1$, which is not possible. \square

It only remains to eliminate the possibility that $\text{Tder}(A)$ contains ideals isomorphic to a compact Lie algebra of type B_2 . Assume on the contrary that \mathcal{S}_ℓ contains such an ideal I_ℓ . Then A is either irreducible as an I_ℓ -module (but not absolutely irreducible) or isomorphic to a direct sum of a three-dimensional trivial I_ℓ -module and a five-dimensional absolutely irreducible one [19, Subsection 4.1]. Lemma 46 rules out the latter possibility. Let I be the ideal of \mathcal{S} that projects isomorphically onto I_ℓ by π_ℓ . Two of the I -modules A_1, A_2, A_3 are irreducible and the other decomposes as the direct sum of a three-dimensional trivial I -module, which we will denote by T , and a five-dimensional absolutely irreducible one, which we will denote by T^\perp [19, Subsection 4.1]. After extending scalars to \mathbb{C} , the two eight-dimensional irreducible modules are isomorphic to $V(\lambda_2)$, and ${}_C T^\perp$ is isomorphic to $V(\lambda_1)$, where λ_1, λ_2 are the fundamental weights relative to some Cartan subalgebra of ${}_C I$ [17]. Also observe that the kernels of the projections π_1, π_2, π_3 are ideals of dimension ≤ 4 , so they commute with I .

Lemma 52. *If $\text{Tder}(A)$ contains an ideal I isomorphic to a compact Lie algebra of type B_2 then $N_l(A) = N_m(A) = N_r(A) = \mathbb{R}e$ and the restrictions of the projections π_1, π_2 and π_3 to \mathcal{S} are injective.*

Proof. Any $(d'_1, d'_2, 0) \in \text{Tder}(A)$ commutes with I and it is of the form $(L_w, L_w, 0)$ with $w \in N_l(A)$. If $L_w \notin \mathbb{R}\mathbb{I}_A$ then the I -modules A_1 and A_2 must be irreducible (otherwise L_w would act as a scalar multiple of the identity on the absolutely irreducible I -module T^\perp , meaning that $w \in \mathbb{R}e$, a contradiction) and $A_3 = T \oplus T^\perp$. Given $(d_1, d_2, d_3) \in I$ and $a \in T$, $d_1(xa) = d_2(x)a + xd_3(a) = d_2(x)a$ implies that $R_b R_a^{-1}$ commutes with d_1 . The dimension of $\text{span}_{\mathbb{R}}\{R_b R_a^{-1} \mid a, b \in T\}$ is at least 3, so the associative subalgebra of $\text{End}_{\mathbb{R}}(A)$ generated by this set is $C(I_1) \cong \mathbb{H}$. The map L_w belongs to $C(I_1)$ and it commutes with $R_b R_a^{-1}$ for any a, b . Hence $L_w \in \mathbb{R}\mathbb{I}_A$, contradicting our assumption. This proves that $N_l(A) = \mathbb{R}e$ and $\ker \pi_3 = \mathbb{R}(\mathbb{I}_A, \mathbb{I}_A, 0)$. A similar argument proves that $N_r(A) = \mathbb{R}e$ and $\ker \pi_2 = \mathbb{R}(\mathbb{I}_A, 0, \mathbb{I}_A)$. Since $\dim C(\text{Tder}(A)_\iota) \leq \dim N_r(A) = 1$ we have $\mathcal{Z}_\iota = \mathbb{R}\mathbb{I}$.

Any $(0, d'_2, d'_3) \in \text{Tder}(A)$ is of the form $(0, R_w, -L_w)$ with $w \in N_m(A)$. In case that $L_w \notin \mathbb{R}\mathbb{I}_A$, as I -modules, A_2 and A_3 must be irreducible and $A_1 = T \oplus T^\perp$. This forces $\iota = 2$ or $\iota = 3$. If $\dim N_m(A) = 2$ then $\{(0, R_a, -L_a) \mid a \in N_m(A)\}$ would be an abelian ideal of dimension ≥ 2 and thus $\dim \mathcal{Z}_\iota \geq 2$, which is false.

If we instead assume that $N_m(A) \cong \mathbb{H}$, then dimension counting gives $C(I_2) = \mathbb{R}_{N_m(A)}$ and $C(I_3) = \mathbb{R}_{N_m(A)}$. We now have enough information to determine the decomposition of $\text{Tder}(A)$ as a direct sum of ideals. Given $(d'_1, d'_2, d'_3) \in \text{Tder}(A)$ with $[(d'_1, d'_2, d'_3), I] = (0, 0, 0)$, its image d'_3 under π_3 belongs to $C(I_3)$ so it is of the form $-L_w$ for some $w \in N_m(A)$. Hence $(d'_1, d'_2 - R_w, 0) \in \text{Tder}(A)$. If we denote by T_m the set $\{(0, R_w, -L_w) \mid w \in N_m(A), \text{trace}(R_w) = 0 = \text{trace}(L_w)\}$, which is a Lie ideal of $\text{Tder}(A)$ isomorphic to $\mathfrak{su}(2)$, then

$$\text{Tder}(A) = I \oplus T_m \oplus \text{span}_{\mathbb{R}}\{(\mathbb{I}_A, \mathbb{I}_A, 0), (\mathbb{I}_A, 0, \mathbb{I}_A)\}.$$

The structure of the ${}_{\mathbb{C}}I \oplus {}_{\mathbb{C}}T_m$ -modules ${}_{\mathbb{C}}A_1$, ${}_{\mathbb{C}}A_2$ and ${}_{\mathbb{C}}A_3$ is given by

$$\begin{aligned} {}_{\mathbb{C}}A_1 &\cong 3V(0) \otimes V(0) \oplus V(\lambda_1) \otimes V(0), \\ {}_{\mathbb{C}}A_2 &\cong V(\lambda_2) \otimes V(1) \quad \text{and} \\ {}_{\mathbb{C}}A_3 &\cong V(\lambda_2) \otimes V(1) \end{aligned}$$

where the first and second slots of the tensor products correspond to modules of ${}_{\mathbb{C}}I$ and ${}_{\mathbb{C}}T_m$ respectively. Observe that A_1 is a trivial T_m -module while each of A_2 and A_3 decomposes as the direct sum of two irreducible (but not absolutely irreducible) four-dimensional modules.

The decompositions above have been derived under the assumption that $N_m(A)$ is isomorphic to \mathbb{H} . However, we shall see that these decompositions cannot occur. Since

$$(V(\lambda_2) \otimes V(1)) \otimes (V(\lambda_2) \otimes V(1)) \cong (V(2\lambda_2) \oplus V(\lambda_1) \oplus V(0)) \otimes (V(2) \oplus V(0))$$

has only a copy of the trivial module $V(0) \otimes V(0)$ and the product on ${}_{\mathbb{C}}A$ is a homomorphism ${}_{\mathbb{C}}A_2 \otimes {}_{\mathbb{C}}A_3 \rightarrow {}_{\mathbb{C}}A_1$ of ${}_{\mathbb{C}}\text{Tder}(A)$ -modules, the product cannot be surjective (${}_{\mathbb{C}}A_1$ has three copies of $V(0) \otimes V(0)$). This contradicts the fact that $AA = A$. Therefore, $N_m(A) = \mathbb{R}e$, as desired. \square

Lemma 53. *If $\text{Tder}(A)$ contains an ideal I isomorphic to a compact Lie algebra of type B_2 then there exists another ideal J isomorphic to $\mathfrak{su}(2)$ such that*

$$\text{Tder}(A) = I \oplus J \oplus \text{span}_{\mathbb{R}}\{(\mathbb{I}_A, \mathbb{I}_A, 0), (\mathbb{I}_A, 0, \mathbb{I}_A)\}.$$

Moreover, two of the ${}_{\mathbb{C}}I \oplus {}_{\mathbb{C}}J$ -modules ${}_{\mathbb{C}}A_1$, ${}_{\mathbb{C}}A_2$ and ${}_{\mathbb{C}}A_3$ are isomorphic to $V(\lambda_2) \otimes V(1)$ while the other is isomorphic to $V(\lambda_1) \otimes V(0) \oplus V(0) \otimes V(2)$. The dimension of $\text{Hom}_{I \oplus J}(A_2 \otimes A_3, A_1)$ is 2.

Proof. If $\text{Tder}(A)_\iota = I_\iota \oplus \mathcal{Z}_\iota$ then $\dim \mathcal{Z}_\iota \leq \dim \mathbb{C}(\text{Tder}(A)_\iota) \leq \dim \mathbb{N}_r(A) = 1$ so $\text{Tder}(A)_\iota = I_\iota \oplus \mathbb{R}\mathbb{I}_A$ and $\mathbb{C}(\text{Tder}(A)_\iota) = \mathbb{C}(I_\iota) \cong \mathbb{H}$, a contradiction. Thus there exists another semisimple ideal J such that

$$\text{Tder}(A) = I \oplus J \oplus \text{span}_{\mathbb{R}}\{(\mathbb{I}_A, \mathbb{I}_A, 0), (\mathbb{I}_A, 0, \mathbb{I}_A)\}.$$

Since the projection π_ι is injective and $\pi_\iota(J) \subseteq \mathbb{C}(I_\iota)$, we have $J \cong \mathfrak{su}(2)$. The extensions of the two irreducible I -modules in $\{A_1, A_2, A_3\}$ have to be ${}_{\mathbb{C}}I \oplus {}_{\mathbb{C}}J$ -modules isomorphic to $V(\lambda_2) \otimes V(1)$. The other I -module is isomorphic to a direct sum of a trivial three-dimensional I -module T and an irreducible five-dimensional one T^\perp . Since J centralizes the action of I , both modules T and T^\perp are stable under the action of J and at least one of them has to be non-trivial, as the projections of J onto its components do not vanish. The only possibility is ${}_{\mathbb{C}}T \cong V(0) \otimes V(2)$ and ${}_{\mathbb{C}}T^\perp \cong V(\lambda_1) \otimes V(0)$.

Now the statement $\dim(\text{Hom}_{I \oplus J}(A_2 \otimes A_3, A_1)) = 2$ is a consequence of the following formulae for the decomposition of tensor products

$$\begin{aligned} V(\lambda_2) \otimes V(\lambda_2) &\cong V(2\lambda_2) \oplus V(\lambda_1) \oplus V(0) \\ V(\lambda_1) \otimes V(\lambda_2) &\cong V(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2) \oplus V(\lambda_2) \\ V(\lambda_2) \otimes V(0) &\cong V(\lambda_2) \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} V(1) \otimes V(1) &\cong V(2) \oplus V(0) \\ V(2) \otimes V(1) &\cong V(3) \oplus V(1) \\ V(1) \otimes V(0) &\cong V(1). \end{aligned}$$

□

Now that we understand the structure of $\text{Tder}(A)$ and the $\text{Tder}(A)$ -modules A_1 , A_2 and A_3 , we may construct some models for them based on the octonions \mathbb{O} to conclude that A has to be an isotope of \mathbb{O} . Since unital isotopes of the octonions are isomorphic to the octonions then Theorem 25 will follow.

Recall that $\text{Tder}(\mathbb{O})$ is isomorphic to the direct sum of a compact Lie algebra of type D_4 and a two-dimensional center $\text{span}_{\mathbb{R}}\{(\mathbb{I}_{\mathbb{O}}, \mathbb{I}_{\mathbb{O}}, 0), (\mathbb{I}_{\mathbb{O}}, 0, \mathbb{I}_{\mathbb{O}})\}$. The Principle of Local Triality (see e.g. [27, Section 3.5]) implies that for any $i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ and any map d_j that is skew-symmetric relative to the bilinear form associated to the multiplicative quadratic form of \mathbb{O} , there exist unique skew-symmetric maps d_j, d_k such that $(d_1, d_2, d_3) \in \text{Tder}(\mathbb{O})$ and $\{i, j, k\} = \{1, 2, 3\}$. Let us denote the product of \mathbb{O} by $x * y$ and consider a quaternion subalgebra $\mathbb{H} = \text{span}_{\mathbb{R}}\{e, \mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}, \mathbf{i} * \mathbf{j}\}$ with $\mathbf{i}^{*2} = \mathbf{j}^{*2} = (\mathbf{i} * \mathbf{j})^{*2} = -e$. Fix $T = \text{span}_{\mathbb{R}}\{e, \mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}\}$ and let T^\perp be the orthogonal complement of T in \mathbb{O} .

By Lemma 53, we have the following three cases:

Case 1. ${}_{\mathbb{C}}A_1 \cong V(\lambda_1) \otimes V(0) \oplus V(0) \otimes V(2)$: The subalgebras

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{B}_2 &= \{(d_1, d_2, d_3) \in \text{Tder}(\mathbb{O}) \mid \text{trace}(d_1) = \text{trace}(d_2) = 0 \text{ and } d_1|_T = 0\} \\ \mathfrak{su}_2 &= \text{span}_{\mathbb{R}}\{(\mathbf{L}_i^* + \mathbf{R}_i^*, \mathbf{L}_i^*, \mathbf{R}_i^*), (\mathbf{L}_j^* + \mathbf{R}_j^*, \mathbf{L}_j^*, \mathbf{R}_j^*), \\ &\quad ([\mathbf{L}_i^* + \mathbf{R}_i^*, \mathbf{L}_j^* + \mathbf{R}_j^*], [\mathbf{L}_i^*, \mathbf{L}_j^*], [\mathbf{R}_i^*, \mathbf{R}_j^*])\} \end{aligned}$$

are simple Lie algebras, \mathfrak{B}_2 is compact of type B_2 , \mathfrak{su}_2 is isomorphic to $\mathfrak{su}(2)$, and they commute each other. The projections $\text{Tder}(\mathbb{O}) \rightarrow \text{End}_{\mathbb{R}}(\mathbb{O})$ $(d_1, d_2, d_3) \mapsto d_i$ ($i = 1, 2, 3$) provide three representations, $\mathbb{O}_1, \mathbb{O}_2$ and \mathbb{O}_3 , of $\text{Tder}(\mathbb{O})$. As ${}_{\mathbb{C}}\mathfrak{B}_2 \oplus {}_{\mathbb{C}}\mathfrak{su}_2$ -modules,

$$\begin{aligned} {}_{\mathbb{C}}\mathbb{O}_1 &= {}_{\mathbb{C}}T \oplus {}_{\mathbb{C}}T^\perp \cong V(0) \otimes V(1) \oplus V(\lambda_1) \otimes V(0), \\ {}_{\mathbb{C}}\mathbb{O}_2 &\cong {}_{\mathbb{C}}\mathbb{O}_3 \cong V(\lambda_2) \otimes V(1). \end{aligned}$$

We may identify A with \mathbb{O} , I with \mathfrak{B}_2 and J with \mathfrak{su}_2 . With this identification the products $x * y$ and xy are homomorphisms $\mathbb{O}_2 \otimes \mathbb{O}_3 \rightarrow \mathbb{O}_1$ of $\mathfrak{B}_2 \oplus \mathfrak{su}_2$ -modules. The maps

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{O}_2 \otimes \mathbb{O}_3 &\rightarrow \mathbb{O}_1 = T \oplus T^\perp \\ x \otimes y &\mapsto \alpha \pi_T(x * y) + \beta \pi_{T^\perp}(x * y) \end{aligned}$$

with $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$ and π_T, π_{T^\perp} the projections onto T and T^\perp parallel to T^\perp and T respectively, give all such homomorphisms, so $xy = \alpha \pi_T(x * y) + \beta \pi_{T^\perp}(x * y)$ for some $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}$. This implies that A is an isotope of the octonions.

Case 2. ${}_C A_2 \cong V(\lambda_1) \otimes V(0) \oplus V(0) \otimes V(2)$: The subalgebras that we consider in this case are

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{B}_2 &= \{(d, d', d) \in \text{Tder}(\mathbb{O}) \mid \text{trace}(d) = 0 \text{ and } d'|_T = 0\}, \\ \mathfrak{su}_2 &= \text{span}_{\mathbb{R}}\{(\mathbf{L}_i^*, \mathbf{L}_i^* + \mathbf{R}_i^*, -\mathbf{L}_i^*), (\mathbf{L}_j^*, \mathbf{L}_j^* + \mathbf{R}_j^*, -\mathbf{L}_j^*), \\ &\quad ([\mathbf{L}_i^*, \mathbf{L}_j^*], [\mathbf{L}_i^* + \mathbf{R}_i^*, \mathbf{L}_j^* + \mathbf{R}_j^*], [\mathbf{L}_i^*, \mathbf{L}_j^*])\}. \end{aligned}$$

An argument similar to that in Case 1 shows that, after identifications, $xy = (\alpha \pi_T(x) + \beta \pi_{T^\perp}(x)) * y$. Therefore, A is an isotope of the octonions.

Case 3. ${}_C A_3 \cong V(\lambda_1) \otimes V(0) \oplus V(0) \otimes V(2)$: The subalgebras that we consider in this case are

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{B}_2 &= \{(d, d, d') \in \text{Tder}(\mathbb{O}) \mid \text{trace}(d) = 0 \text{ and } d'|_T = 0\}, \\ \mathfrak{su}_2 &= \text{span}_{\mathbb{R}}\{(\mathbf{R}_i^*, -\mathbf{R}_i^*, \mathbf{L}_i^* + \mathbf{R}_i^*), (\mathbf{R}_j^*, -\mathbf{R}_j^*, \mathbf{L}_j^* + \mathbf{R}_j^*), \\ &\quad ([\mathbf{R}_i^*, \mathbf{R}_j^*], [\mathbf{R}_i^*, \mathbf{R}_j^*], [\mathbf{L}_i^* + \mathbf{R}_i^*, \mathbf{L}_j^* + \mathbf{R}_j^*])\}. \end{aligned}$$

and the arguments are similar to those in Case 2.

APPENDIX A. NORMAL FORMS

Here we list normal forms for the $\text{SO}(\mathbb{R}^3)$ -sets $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^3) \times \mathbb{R}^3$, $\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3$, $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^3) \times \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^3) \times \mathbb{R}^3$ and $\mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^3) \times \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3$, with respective group actions, defined by (4) and (5), coming from \mathcal{B}_{00} , \mathcal{B}_{01} , \mathcal{B}_{10} and \mathcal{B}_{11} . Let N and P be the sets of non-negative and positive real numbers, respectively, and set $\mathcal{P}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \mathbb{R} \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$, $\mathcal{P}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} P \\ P \\ \mathbb{R} \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} P \\ 0 \\ N \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ N \\ N \end{pmatrix}$.

A.1. **The case** $(c, b, D_d, \beta) \in \mathcal{B}_{00}$. For $d \in \hat{\mathcal{T}}_1$:

$$\mathcal{N}_{00}^1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & N \\ 0 & N \end{pmatrix} \subseteq \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^3) \times \mathbb{R}^3.$$

For $d \in \hat{\mathcal{T}}_2$:

$$\mathcal{N}_{00}^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & P \\ 0 & \mathbb{R} \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & N \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 0 & N \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 1 & | \\ 0 & \mathcal{P}_2 \end{pmatrix} \subseteq \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^3) \times \mathbb{R}^3.$$

For $d \in \hat{\mathcal{T}}_3$:

$$\mathcal{N}_{00}^3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & P \\ P & \mathbb{R} \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ P & N \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 1 & N \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 0 & | \\ 1 & \mathcal{P}_2 \end{pmatrix} \subseteq \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^3) \times \mathbb{R}^3.$$

For $d \in \hat{\mathcal{T}}_4$:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{N}_{00}^4 &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \mathbb{R} \\ P & \mathbb{R} \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \mathbb{R} \\ 1 & P \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \mathbb{R} \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 1 & P \\ 0 & \mathbb{R} \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & N \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 1 & P \\ 0 & \mathbb{R} \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & N \end{pmatrix} \cup \\ &\quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & | \\ 0 & \mathcal{P}_2 \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 0 & | \\ 1 & \mathcal{P}_2 \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 0 & | \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \subseteq \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^3) \times \mathbb{R}^3. \end{aligned}$$

A.4. **The case** $(u, c, b, D_d, \beta) \in \mathcal{B}_{11}$. For $d \in \hat{\mathcal{T}}_1$:

$$\mathcal{N}_{11}^1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & P & \mathbb{R} \\ 0 & P & \mathbb{R} \\ 0 & 0 & \mathbb{R} \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & P \\ 0 & P & \mathbb{R} \\ 0 & 0 & \mathbb{R} \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & P & \mathbb{R} \\ 0 & 0 & N \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 1 & P & \mathbb{R} \\ 0 & 0 & N \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & N \\ 0 & 0 & N \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \subseteq \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^3) \times \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3.$$

For $d \in \hat{\mathcal{T}}_2$:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{N}_{11}^2 = & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & P & \mathbb{R} \\ 0 & \mathbb{R} & \mathbb{R} \\ P & \mathbb{R} & \mathbb{R} \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \mathbb{R} \\ 0 & \mathbb{R} & \mathbb{R} \\ P & P & \mathbb{R} \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & P \\ 0 & \mathbb{R} & \mathbb{R} \\ P & 0 & \mathbb{R} \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbb{R} & \mathbb{R} \\ P & 0 & N \end{pmatrix} \cup \\ & \begin{pmatrix} 0 & P & \mathbb{R} \\ 0 & 0 & \mathbb{R} \\ 1 & P & \mathbb{R} \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 0 & P & \mathbb{R} \\ 0 & 0 & P \\ 1 & 0 & \mathbb{R} \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 0 & P & \mathbb{R} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & N \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & N \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & P & \mathbb{R} \end{pmatrix} \cup \\ & \left(\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \times \mathcal{N}_{10}^4 \right) \subseteq \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^3) \times \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3. \end{aligned}$$

For $d \in \hat{\mathcal{T}}_3$:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{N}_{11}^3 = & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & P & \mathbb{R} \\ P & \mathbb{R} & \mathbb{R} \\ 0 & \mathbb{R} & \mathbb{R} \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \mathbb{R} \\ P & P & \mathbb{R} \\ 0 & \mathbb{R} & \mathbb{R} \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & P \\ P & 0 & \mathbb{R} \\ 0 & \mathbb{R} & \mathbb{R} \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ P & 0 & N \\ 0 & \mathbb{R} & \mathbb{R} \end{pmatrix} \cup \\ & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & P & \mathbb{R} \\ 0 & P & \mathbb{R} \\ 0 & 0 & \mathbb{R} \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 1 & P & \mathbb{R} \\ 0 & 0 & N \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & P \\ 0 & P & \mathbb{R} \\ 0 & 0 & \mathbb{R} \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & P & \mathbb{R} \\ 0 & 0 & N \end{pmatrix} \cup \\ & \left(\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \times \mathcal{N}_{10}^4 \right) \subseteq \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^3) \times \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3. \end{aligned}$$

For $d \in \hat{\mathcal{T}}_4$:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{N}_{11}^4 = & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \mathbb{R} & \mathbb{R} \\ P & \mathbb{R} & \mathbb{R} \\ P & \mathbb{R} & \mathbb{R} \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \mathbb{R} & \mathbb{R} \\ 1 & P & \mathbb{R} \\ P & \mathbb{R} & \mathbb{R} \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \mathbb{R} & \mathbb{R} \\ 1 & 0 & \mathbb{R} \\ P & P & \mathbb{R} \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \mathbb{R} & \mathbb{R} \\ 1 & 0 & P \\ P & 0 & \mathbb{R} \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \mathbb{R} & \mathbb{R} \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ P & 0 & N \end{pmatrix} \cup \\ & \begin{pmatrix} 1 & P & \mathbb{R} \\ 0 & \mathbb{R} & \mathbb{R} \\ P & \mathbb{R} & \mathbb{R} \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \mathbb{R} \\ 0 & \mathbb{R} & \mathbb{R} \\ P & P & \mathbb{R} \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & P \\ 0 & \mathbb{R} & \mathbb{R} \\ P & 0 & \mathbb{R} \end{pmatrix} \cup \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbb{R} & \mathbb{R} \\ P & 0 & N \end{pmatrix} \cup \\ & \left(\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\} \times \mathcal{N}_{10}^4 \right) \subseteq \mathbb{P}(\mathbb{R}^3) \times \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3. \end{aligned}$$

REFERENCES

- [1] A. A. Albert. Non-associative algebras. I. Fundamental concepts and isotopy. *Ann. of Math.* (2), 43:685–707, 1942.
- [2] V. D. Belousov. Balanced identities in quasigroups. *Mat. Sb. (N.S.)*, 70 (112):55–97, 1966.
- [3] G. M. Benkart, D. J. Britten, and J. M. Osborn. Real flexible division algebras. *Canadian Journal of Mathematics*, 34:550–588, 1982.
- [4] Georgia M. Benkart and J. Marshall Osborn. The derivation algebra of a real division algebra. *Amer. J. Math.*, 103(6):1135–1150, 1981.
- [5] Georgia M. Benkart and J. Marshall Osborn. An investigation of real division algebras using derivations. *Pac. J. Math.*, 96:265–300, 1981.
- [6] Robert B. Brown and Alfred Gray. Vector cross products. *Comment. Math. Helv.*, 42:222–236, 1967.
- [7] J. A. Cuenca Mira, E. Darpo, and E. Dieterich. Classification of the finite dimensional absolute valued algebras having a non-zero central idempotent or a one-sided unity. *Bulletin des Sciences Mathématiques*, 134:247–277, 2010.
- [8] J. A. Cuenca Mira, R. De Los Santos Villodres, A. Kaidi, and A. Rochdi. Real quadratic flexible division algebras. *Linear Algebra and its Applications*, 290:1–22, 1999.
- [9] José Antonio Cuenca Mira. On division algebras satisfying Moufang identities. *Comm. Algebra*, 30(11):5199–5206, 2002.
- [10] E. Darpo. On the classification of the real flexible division algebras. *Colloq. Math.*, 105(1):1–17, 2006.
- [11] E. Darpo. Normal forms for the \mathcal{G}_2 -action on the real symmetric 7×7 -matrices by conjugation. *Journal of Algebra*, 312(2):668–688, 2007.
- [12] E. Darpo. Isotopes of Hurwitz algebras. [arXiv:1012.1849](https://arxiv.org/abs/1012.1849), 2010.
- [13] E. Dieterich. Zur Klassifikation vierdimensionaler reeller Divisionsalgebren. *Math. Nachr.*, 194:13–22, 1998.
- [14] E. Falconer. Isotopes of some special quasigroup varieties. *Acta Math. Acad. Sci. Hungar.*, 22:73–79, 1971/1972.
- [15] F. R. Gantmacher. *The theory of matrices. Vol. 1*. Translated by K. A. Hirsch. Chelsea Publishing Co., New York, 1959.
- [16] I. N. Herstein. Finite multiplicative subgroups in division rings. *Pacific J. Math.*, 3:121–126, 1953.

- [17] James E. Humphreys. *Introduction to Lie algebras and representation theory*, volume 9 of *Graduate Texts in Mathematics*. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1978. Second printing, revised.
- [18] N. Jacobson. *Basic Algebra I*. W.H. Freeman and Company, second edition, 1985.
- [19] Clara Jiménez-Gestal and José M. Pérez-Izquierdo. Ternary derivations of finite-dimensional real division algebras. *Linear Algebra Appl.*, 428(8-9):2192–2219, 2008.
- [20] A. Krapež and M. A. Taylor. Quasigroups satisfying balanced but not Belousov equations are group isotopes. *Aequationes Math.*, 42(1):37–46, 1991.
- [21] Kenneth Kunen. Moufang quasigroups. *J. Algebra*, 183(1):231–234, 1996.
- [22] Dragomir Ž. Đoković and Kaiming Zhao. Real division algebras with large automorphism group. *J. Algebra*, 282(2):758–796, 2004.
- [23] J. M. Osborn. Quadratic division algebras. *Trans. Amer. Math. Soc.*, 105:202–221, 1962.
- [24] J. D. Phillips and Petr Vojtěchovský. The varieties of quasigroups of Bol-Moufang type: an equational reasoning approach. *J. Algebra*, 293(1):17–33, 2005.
- [25] R. D. Schafer. *An introduction to nonassociative algebras*. Dover Publications Inc., New York, 1995. Corrected reprint of the 1966 original.
- [26] B. Segre. La teoria delle algebre ed alcune questioni di realtà. *Univ. Roma. Ist. Naz. Alta Mat. Rend. Mat. e Appl. (5)*, 13:157–188, 1954.
- [27] T. A. Springer and F. D. Veldkamp. *Octonions, Jordan algebras and exceptional groups*. Springer Monographs in Mathematics. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, 2000.
- [28] M. A. Taylor. A generalization of a theorem of Belousov. *Bull. London Math. Soc.*, 10(3):285–286, 1978.
- [29] K. A. Zhevlakov, A. M. Slin'ko, I. P. Shestakov, and A. I. Shirshov. *Rings that are nearly associative*, volume 104 of *Pure and Applied Mathematics*. Academic Press Inc. [Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Publishers], New York, 1982. Translated from the Russian by Harry F. Smith.
- [30] M. Zorn. Theorie der alternativen Ringe. *Abh. Math. Sem. Hamburg*, 8:123–147, 1931.

E. DARPO: MATHEMATICAL INSTITUTE, 24-29 ST GILES', OXFORD OX1 3LB, UNITED KINGDOM.

J.M. PÉREZ IZQUIERDO: DEPARTAMENTO DE MATEMÁTICAS Y COMPUTACIÓN, UNIVERSIDAD DE LA RIOJA, 26004 LOGROÑO, SPAIN.

E-mail address: erik.darpo@maths.ox.ac.uk, jm.perez@unirioja.es